

## City of Springdale Council

April 20, 2022

President of Council Vanover called Council to order on April 20, 2022

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, Hawkins, Jacobs, Ramirez, Sullivan-Wisecup, and Vanover were present. (Mrs. Ghantous came in after minutes were approved)

President Vanover: Council, I have received a request from the Administration to add an Executive Session. I need a motion.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I'd like to make a motion to add an Executive Session under 8(a) on the Council agenda.

President Vanover: Do I have a second.

Mr. Hawkins: Second. Do we have to say what it is for?

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Not until I read it.

Motion to add Executive Session under 8(a) on the Council agenda passes with seven affirmative votes.

The minutes of the April 6, 2022 meeting were considered. Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup made a motion to accept the minutes; Mr. Anderson seconded. The minutes were approved with six affirmative votes.

### Committee and Official Reports

#### Civil Service Commission

Mr. Coleman: Civil Service Commission did meet on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, and all members were present. What we're seeing now in our meetings, quite frankly, is a discussion that lends itself to the hiring process. So, let me start off by commenting that within the hiring process, and even the promotional process, we're looking at levels of flexibility that we need in order to accomplish our objectives. For example, within the recruiting of the Account Clerk I – Finance position, here's what we found. We had four applicants that were still remaining on the Account Clerk list, which was set to expire April 1<sup>st</sup>. We attempted to contact all four of those individuals; two responded that they were no longer interested, and the other two we left messages with no response. So, we decided that we needed to move forward with this. What we did was we started to weigh the testing requirement in order to move things forward. As a result, we ended up with 39 applicants and 11 interviews, and several offers have been made and are pending. So, again, with the way things are right now, and the competitive nature of trying to fill positions within the Municipal offices, we know that within the rules and regulations of the commission, we have to look at ways to be flexible in order to be able to track candidates and get them in here in a timely manner. With the help of Mr. (Brian) Uhl, and Administration, I think we're going in the right direction. In addition, within the custodian hiring process, there was two open positions; six individuals have been interviewed, and candidates have received offers, so I think those offers are pending as well. But, what we're starting to look at instead of looking at all of the different testing, is to look at qualifications within the applications and the applications are coming in in a variety of ways; online, in person, within the various hiring organizations, Indeed, the whole nine yards. So, again, the policies and procedures that were in place before this type of situation occurred, we're finding that they're still good, but we have to tweak them in order to make sure that we can get to individuals and get positions filled in a timely manner. So, again, each time that we meet we find that this is necessary to look at another situation in order to build that flexibility. And, as a result, I think we're heading in the right direction. The Director of Environmental Health and Sanitation, again looking at qualifications, we ended up with three applications, and as you may, or may not know, that position has been difficult to fill. So, we changed the title, and that helped us to get some other individuals, and so we said, "Let's look at qualifications and just get resumes in

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Mr. Coleman (continued): here so that we can move forward with it.” That’s all that I have for this evening. Any questions? (None)

President Vanover: I don’t see any.

Mr. Coleman: Okay.

President Vanover: Very good. Thank you Mr. Coleman.

Rules and Laws Mrs. Ghantous - No report

Finance Committee Mr. Hawkins: - No report

Planning Commission

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Planning Commission met on April 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m., and we had a Conditional Use from Sweeney Chevy Quick Lube at 33 West Kemper Road. It was a Public Hearing. Basically, they want to turn their back end area into a quick lube so that when you go into the service area, you can leave your car there; they’ll take your car and bring it over to the quick lube area, take care of it, and bring it back. It just keeps it separate so that if people need their car serviced for other things, that leaves those bays open, and that way the people who just need an oil change can get in and get out fairly quickly and that was voted a 7-0 vote. We had a Conditional Use for Creative Dreams Learning Center at 12117 Princeton Pike. We did continue that to the next meeting. That owner is going to have more; we needed more information. She didn’t have everything that we needed, so, she’s new; first time ever opening a daycare, and we wanted to give her every benefit of the doubt that we could, and so she is coming back with everything that she needs at the next meeting. That was voted 7-0 to continue. We had a Final Development Plan for Springdale Commerce Park PUD; Buildings one and four. That’s at 12110 Princeton Pike. For those of you, it’s the old GE Park. They were building Buildings One and Four, and after a lot of consideration, and a couple of changes, as it pertains to windows, it was voted 7-0 for them to go forward, and they said that it will be the last two buildings that they will have in that development. That will be full and we’re very excited about that. Finally, we had a Concept Plan; discussion only; no decisions for TCM Repurposing the Tri-County Mall at 11700 Princeton Pike. David Wallace came; he showed different slides; a slide presentation. He talked a little bit about Phase One and that they’re expecting Phase One to be finished around fourth quarter of 2024. And, we listened, and it was a fairly favorable discussion back and forth getting more information, and we’re excited to see when they come back this summer with their final development plan. That is all that I have, unless you have anything Mr. Ramirez.

Mr. Ramirez: Sounds complete.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Thank you.

Board of Zoning Appeals Mrs. Ghantous - No report

Board of Health

Mr. Jacobs: The Board of Health met on the 14<sup>th</sup> and the good news continues in terms of indicators. In terms of documented COVID cases, there were four in the City in the last two and a half weeks. In Hamilton County, six people are on a ventilator, for example. So, the numbers are great and are continuing that trend at least for now. The (Health) Commissioner and the (Public Health) Nurse are still doing vaccine clinics and they’re going full steam ahead. Within the last month, I think we had a week where we still gave out over 200 shots, but they’re focusing them on folks getting those shots in the most vulnerable population which is seniors, and for people with immunocompromised situations. So, that’s going full steam ahead. The vaccines continue at the Community Center, with the exception of tomorrow, on the 21<sup>st</sup> they will be back here, and then they go back to the Community Center for the near future. The old Boulevard now known as The Bully is ready in terms of licensing, so there’s progress there. Mr. Coleman mentioned the Director of Environmental Health; there was a shift in that personnel, but there was discussion about how confident Commissioner Clayton is about the new hire, and so he feels very good about going forward. The last note would be accreditation is still full

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Mr. Jacobs (continued): steam ahead. It's on track to be finished in time. Unless there are any questions, that concludes my report.

Capital Improvements

Mrs. Ghantous - No report

O-K-I

Mr. Anderson: OKI did meet on April 14<sup>th</sup> for the Board of Directors. There's two items from the meeting that I think would be interesting for folks to hear about. The first one is there was discussion about the infrastructure bill; the Federal Infrastructure Bill; the \$7.5 billion dollar infrastructure component. There's about a \$140 million dollars in Ohio up for grabs right now for EV Charging Stations, which is interesting. The reason it's interesting too is Springdale was the example that they used in the meeting for a possible place that would make sense for an EV Charging Station. They brought up their map that they used to kind of show kind of show the value of an EV Charging Station, and the Tri-County Mall area, which I know there's been discussion of possibly putting one or more there. Springdale was the example that they used as a good possibility because it's on the corridor of (Interstate) 275, (Interstate) 75, (Interstate) 71, and (Interstate) 74, which are all approved corridors for placement of EV Charging Stations with this funding within one mile of the corridor. There's a 20% match that's required for it, but they described possibilities for private companies to do build-out and local community get some profit from it without actually investing money. So, that was interesting and good to know. Maybe something we can look into. The other thing I wanted to bring up was a presentation on OKI apps. Our tax dollars, we spend a lot of time and money with OKI and the infrastructure components. One thing they do as a service is provide a number of applications; not just for City, but for residents to use to understand better traffic, solar sustainability, safety issues around them. All the OKI apps are available on their website [www.oki.org/mapsapps](http://www.oki.org/mapsapps). One that I wanted to highlight that they did too was the go solar ready app ([www.oki/portfolio-items/solar-ready-rooftop-potential](http://www.oki/portfolio-items/solar-ready-rooftop-potential)). It's really interesting because you can put in your address, or any address and with the data that they have, they can tell you how viable that building is for solar, in terms of the expected value you would be able to get out of it, wattage, what type of system, and where on the site makes the most sense for it. The reason I highlight that is right now, I know at least in my neighborhood, we've gotten a couple of solar installers coming around kind of selling what they can do, and I think it's good to know that there's another resource people can go to outside of a salesperson to get a feel for how appropriate solar might be for your location. That's available as the go solar ready app ([www.oki.portfolio-items/solar-ready-rooftop-potential](http://www.oki.portfolio-items/solar-ready-rooftop-potential)) on the OKI site. So, I thought that was interesting, so, I wanted to pass that along. That's it. Thank you.

Mr. Hawkins: Does the OKI app also give recommended installers, or do they have any direction for that or just more of what will be good for each individual?

Mr. Anderson: No, the application, and it's a web app, so it would be used through your browser, it's not something you would download. It just provides from public data and data that they have where it would be, and what the estimate would be on the wattage you could expect to receive. It gives you a judgement call of like, "Hey, this is a good site, or maybe, or it depends", but it doesn't refer you to installers. There's no tie-ins to commercial (sites), but it's a good checkpoint I think for that reason; it gives you kind of an independent look at what is available.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Webster: I have several items. Some very exciting ones. First off there's a press release. This was dated April 6<sup>th</sup> from Representative Jessica Miranda. She applauds the passage of House Bill 291 to name a portion of the Interstate 275, "Officer Kaia L. Grant Memorial Highway". The memorial will be honoring Officer Kaia L. Grant, a Police officer killed in the line of duty on March 21, 2020. I know Mrs. Miranda has worked very hard at this for the last couple of years and we're very pleased that this has come to fruition. So, we should see those signs go up there I would think very shortly. The next item we touched on is Arbor Day. I've got a proclamation here to read that I will present to Mr. Agricola for him to add to his collection down at the Public Works facility. But, while I'm on that, I just want to remind everybody that this coming Friday, down at the Community Center, we're going to

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Mayor Webster (continued): have a Tree City USA presentation. It's a gathering of about 53 organizations here in southwest Ohio, and 150 plus people will be in to receive their Tree City USA award and some of these cities, like Cincinnati has had a Tree City USA award for like 41 years, and so that pales in comparison to Springdale's 30 years, but we're still very proud of the 30 years and the job that Jeff and his predecessors have done in perpetuating our forestry program here in Springdale. So, but, anyway, without further ado, let me read the proclamation,

*"WHEREAS, in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees; and*

*WHEREAS, this holiday called Arbor Day, was first observed 150 years ago with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska; and*

*WHEREAS, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world; and*

*WHEREAS, trees can be a solution to combating climate change by reducing the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cutting heating and cooling costs, moderating the temperature, cleaning the air, producing life-giving oxygen, and providing habitat for wildlife; and*

*WHEREAS, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires, and countless other wood products; and*

*WHEREAS, trees in our City increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community; and*

*WHEREAS, the City of Springdale wishes to encourage its residents to plant and maintain trees in the City.*

*NOW THEREFORE, I DOYLE H. WEBSTER, Mayor of the City of Springdale, do hereby proclaim April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022 as*

**ARBOR DAY**

*In the City of Springdale and urge all citizens to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands and to support the City's urban forestry program"*

So, Mr. Agricola (Mr. Agricola was presented with proclamation) (Applause)

And, in observance of Arbor Day, we will have two ceremonies on April 29<sup>th</sup>. One at 1:00 p.m. across the road here at Springdale Elementary School, and then we will also have another service celebration over at Heritage Hill Elementary School at 2:20. Mr. Vanover will take care of that one for me; I've got a conflict there, but, we're looking forward to planting a couple of trees at the elementary schools and hearing their songs and so forth, and so on. So, it will be a nice day. Also, I have another proclamation that I'd like to read today, and this is one honoring teachers.

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*“WHEREAS, since 1984, the National PTA has designated a week to recognize teachers for their hard work and dedication to students; and*

*WHEREAS, teachers mold future citizens through guidance and education; and*

*WHEREAS, teachers encounter students of widely differing backgrounds; and*

*WHEREAS, our country’s future depends upon providing quality education to all students; and*

*WHEREAS, teachers spend countless hours preparing lessons, evaluating progress, counseling and coaching students, and performing community service; and*

*WHEREAS, our community recognizes and supports its teachers in educating the children of this community.*

*NOW THEREFORE, I, DOYLE H. WEBSTER, Mayor of the City of Springdale, do hereby proclaim the week of May 2<sup>nd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022 as*

*TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK*

*In the City of Springdale and encourage all members of the community to join with it in personally expressing appreciation to our teachers and school staff for their dedication and devotion to their work.*

This I think would be especially rewarding for Mrs. Wyder sitting here in the front row since she’s a long-time teacher, and currently President of the Princeton Board of Education. Let me ask Andy Kuchta to come up and accept this. I think all of the cities in the Princeton School District are passing this proclamation and are all going to be presented one day next week, isn’t it Andy over at the Princeton School at the Business Partnership meeting?

Mr. Kuchta: I’m not sure if they’re having their next business partner breakfast next week, but, at the next one, I’ll be sure to provide it.

Mayor Webster: Okay. (Mr. Kuchta was presented with the proclamation) (Applause).

Mayor Webster: And, I’m not through. No more proclamations, however, I’d like to take a little bit of time to talk about SOS (Springdale Offering Support). I know Julie Matheny has appeared before you a couple of times in the last few months talking about our scholarship program, and we have concluded that. The Scholarship Committee has chosen the recipient, however, we have not been able to notify that recipient yet, so I’d like to withhold that name. We’ll share that with you, hopefully, at the next meeting. But, anyway, the other thing, and this is a really exciting project that we’ve undertaken is that we’re going to start a clothing drive to support the Ukrainian people. We’re doing this in conjunction with the Springdale Fire Department, and Matthew 25: Ministries. What you can do is take your items, and drop them off at the (Springdale) Fire Department. Let me read this brochure; there’s a stack of them back there on the back table. So if all of you would like to take one, I’d appreciate that.

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*“Please join Springdale Offering Support in support of Ukraine by dropping off the following items at the Springdale Fire House:*

*Personal care products: bar soap, sanitizer, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, body wash, deodorant, lotion, and feminine hygiene products*

*Paper products: toilet paper, and paper towels*

*First aid items: bandages, gauze, first aid tape, antiseptic creams, hydrogen peroxide, alcohol, latex gloves, and instant cold packs*

*New and gentle used clothing*

*Linens: Quilts, bedspreads, comforters, sheets, pillowcases, and blankets*

*Baby and Infant supplies: diapers, baby wipes, diaper rash ointment, baby wash, baby shampoo, and baby lotions*

*New stuffed toys (non-battery operated)”*

No food donations please. We'll come back and ask for food at Christmastime, but no food now. Just the clothing items. But, anyway, please drop these donations off at the back entrance of the Springdale Fire Department, and we'll have some directional signs go up there within the next week so everybody knows exactly where to go, and you can do this 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and the cutoff is May 20<sup>th</sup>, and we're hoping that we have enough goods dropped off that Matthew 25: Ministries will have to come over before that and pick up, but, they will come up whenever we get a big box filled, they'll be able to pick it up. So, anyway, we'd appreciate everybody out there supporting the SOS effort to help the people in the Ukraine. I think that concludes my report Mr. President.

Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Mrs. McNear: The General Fund update through March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. For receipts, based on a net receipt budget of \$21.218 million dollars, and we have received \$6.239 million dollars, which is 34%. Those are made up of five major general fund resources which are Earnings Tax, Real Estate Taxes, Paramedic Services, Local Government Funds, and Mayor's Court for a subtotal of \$5.753 million dollars which is 92% of the anticipated budget. For expenditures, based on a net expenditure budget of \$21.349 million dollars, we have spent \$5.178 million dollars, which is 25% of the budget. Our General Fund ending balance through March 31<sup>st</sup> is \$6.916 million dollars. And that concludes my report. Thank you.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Jones: Several things; mostly from the Parks and Rec. Charlie Wilson wanted me to report that they have an opening for a Part-Time Customer Service Representative, two Part-Time Maintenance Workers, one Teen Advisor. In addition, seasonal employment for two Part-Time Maintenance Workers. So, a few events that are happening down there. Taking registration now for Adult Co-ed evening Pickle Ball Leagues. We hear a lot about the Pickle Ball, so there you have it. Registration for swim lessons for members are going on now and registration for non-members will start on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Speaking of May 1<sup>st</sup>, registration starts for fall instructional youth soccer at that time. Registration for the Sailfish Swim Team starts May 1<sup>st</sup>, and Meet the Coaches Night will be May 11<sup>th</sup>. Registration for the Club Rec Spring Extreme Event on May 13<sup>th</sup>, starts May 1<sup>st</sup>. Now, you're going to ask me what that is, so I'm going to tell you. I had to ask myself. Apparently that's grades five through eight. They will have outdoor activities, and they'll play games, kickball, slip and slide relays, and a variety of other things. Based on the weather, they may end up moving that inside, but they assure me it's a fun event. May 28<sup>th</sup>, swimming pool opens. May 30<sup>th</sup>, Memorial Day, the Community Center will be closed. Just as a reminder, and I'll try to remember to send you an email as we get a little closer, Mr. Agricola has volunteered to take pictures for the elected officials before the Council meeting, May 18<sup>th</sup> at about 6:45 p.m. That's it. Thank you.

Mayor Webster: Just a clarification, the pool will be open on the 30<sup>th</sup> though right? Just the Rec Center itself is closed. (Mr. Jones nodded in agreement)

Law Director's Report

Mr. Braun

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No report

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### Engineer's Report

Mr. Riggs: So I have some good news to report on the Community Center Reroofing Project. The work has resumed. The skylights are being installed. In fact, I think one of them went it today. So, we're looking to wrap that project up next month. That same contractor actually is going to begin working on the Public Works Salt Dome roof next month as well. We've already had a pre-construction meeting with him. The building permit has been issued, and we're looking to get started next month, and hopefully wrap up in about a month, so, maybe right before the fourth of July, or around there. The Northland Boulevard Reconstruction Project; we're still working on Stage III plans. Stage III is almost like 90% level plans, so, we're looking to get those submitted to ODOT (Ohio Department Of Transportation) on June 24<sup>th</sup>. The (Route) 747 Curb Replacement/Catch Basin Repair Project, no change there really. Adleta is our contractor and they are looking to begin construction early May 2<sup>nd</sup> and will be complete with that work in July. The East Kemper Road/CSX Railroad Bridge Project, the SORTA (Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority) Agreement has been executed. We are still working on finalizing the plans, hopefully in the next week or so we'll have that wrapped up. So, by the end of the month we'll have plans ready, looking to go to advertisement in May, and have bid openings sometime in June. The State Route 747 Urban Paving is going to occur after the Curb and Catch Basin Repair Project. We actually submitted Stage III plans to ODOT yesterday, on the 19<sup>th</sup>. That's all I have.

President Vanover: Thank you sir.

Communications

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None

Communications from the Audience

President Vanover: Please. There should be a pad there to put your name and address just for records.

Mr. Haugh: Good evening everybody. My name is Kevin Haugh. I live in Beacon Hills and have been a resident of Springdale for the past nine years. I recently visited our firehouse and was shocked at the condition of not only the building itself, but the apparatus and the staffing levels. We've talked a lot about; in these meetings we've talked a lot about expanding the City, the two new developments, the mall, and over where the Sheraton site was and nowhere anywhere was there a mention of expanding the fire department, or emergency services, or replacing trucks or bettering the current, with the exception of the two engines, the current apparatus are out of their service life and being held together by duct tape essentially. Staffing is down. I know we're working on recruiting new firefighters, but that process, to me, seems a little off having to pay to apply to a job, I know, discourages many firemen who don't have the money, or don't want to invest the \$50 into just have the opportunity to come test for the Fire Department. The station itself is, I think, a remnant of the 1970's with wood paneling, paint falling off all over the place. So, my question for Council is what are we doing to address the issues we're having at the Fire Department? I know, also, within the last month, I've seen a Sharonville squad in our station because we didn't have enough trucks in service, and Woodlawn made a fire run into the City because we didn't have enough staffing available to staff our units that were in service. So, I'm asking Council what are we doing to address these issues and how can we fix our Fire Department now and build it toward the future with all these developments that we're bringing in to the City?

Mayor Webster: Are you asking City Council, or are you asking Administration?

Mr. Haugh: I'm asking City Council do we have any plans?

Mayor Webster: Do you guys want to answer that?

President Vanover: Go ahead.

Mayor Webster: To be honest with you young man, I couldn't hear everything that you said, but, you mentioned something about Sharonville?

Mr. Haugh: Sharonville was .....

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Mayor Webster: We borrowed an ambulance from Sharonville because we have three ambulances; two of them were out of commission, so we were down to one ambulance, and so we approached Sharonville to see if they would lend us one until we got at least one of ours back in service, which they very graciously did, and we'll be forever grateful for them for doing that, but, we've already returned that, and they told me we got the motor replaced in the one, and so we're back to two operating, and the other one I guess is in the garage, so we have a third one, so, we think we're in good shape there. As far as the engines, Brian (Uhl) and John (Jones), jump in here and help me here, but we've got one that one of the pumpers is like two years old, maybe three. We've got another one on order; another pumper. And, so, we don't see that we've got a problem with our capital rolling stock over in the Fire Department.

Mr. Haugh: The engines are fine. The ladder truck is out of date, and will not be tall enough to service the new buildings that are coming with the new development over by the mall, and the ambulances; one is 17 years old, and that's "second out" right now. The "primary out" ambulance was just replaced. They just replaced the engine, and that's ten years old, and the one that was damaged in the accident, which is still over at Ford, is nine years old. So, and the average service life of a squad is about ten years, so, we've almost reached the end of all three service lives for these trucks with no plans, that I've heard from anyone, to continue replacing these to make sure they're in service. I want to know, as a resident, that that 17 year old ambulance is going to be able to come to my house and not break down, or have an issue to get me to the hospital. And that's an awful old truck for an ambulance that runs about 3,000 calls a year.

Mayor Webster: All I can tell you is that we are constantly looking at the rolling stock and if one of those units needs to be replaced, we certainly will replace them. Now, to my knowledge, we do not have an ambulance on order do we?

Mr. Jones: We do not for 2022, no.

Mayor Webster: We have nothing on order for 2022, but, I can sit here and I can tell you exactly what we're going to do if things work out the way we think they're going to work out with the TIF (Tax Incentive Financing) dollars coming in from the mall, and if that's the case, we can buy probably a new fire truck every year if we wanted to buy one. That's the kind of revenues that will be generated, but I'm not going to sit here and promise that to you in case the development doesn't materialize the way we think it's going to. But, all I can tell you is that we've always supplied this community with what it needed; its rolling stock, its police cruisers, its ambulances, and its fire trucks, and we will continue to do that whether Tri-County Mall gets redeveloped or not. And, a few years ago, we decided well okay we can't write a check for \$600,000 or \$700,000 dollars for a pumper, but what we can do is we can buy it on a lease option to purchase with three equal payments of a couple \$100,000 a year, and that's what we've done with a number of vehicles over there. And, we'll do the same thing with an ambulance. If we need to replace all three of the ambulances, we could do that tomorrow if we had to, so that's the last thing in the world that you need to worry about is Springdale being able to provide a squad at your front door if you need it.

Mr. Haugh: I'm concerned because how many of us have cars that are 17 years old?

Mayor Webster: I'm sorry, I didn't hear that.

Mr. Haugh: How many of us have cars that are 17 years old? That roll out an average of three times a day.

Mayor Webster: So, let me ask you, who should I listen to? Should I listen to the Fire Chief and his staff over there to tell me when they need to replace it, or should I listen to a resident that's concerned because we've got a 17 year old ambulance?

Mr. Haugh: No, I would think you would listen to both of us and weigh the options. But, one thing that firefighters look at when they look at where they're going to go apply to and work at is the equipment. And, if you have old equipment, they don't want to come work in an old station with an old firehouse; they like having the new and best like everyone else does.

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Mr. Haugh (continued): So, if we're having a hard time recruiting firemen, we need to look at that too and it just seems that those trucks are very old and we're kind of keeping them together. We're replacing motors, and one was wrecked a few weeks ago. I don't know whose fault; it doesn't matter whose fault it was, but if that's out of service, that brings us down to two, and I think that as a Council and as a community we need to look at being proactive is okay, we need to have plans to replace this now with something if it does get totaled out because it's still sitting at Ford. It hasn't moved since the accident. I drive past it every day. We need to be able to say, "Okay, let's get this truck ordered, and move today." Rather than sit there and wait for the insurance to say, "Okay, we are going to pay for this." The average build time for an ambulance is almost a year and a half. So, we'd be without or short a truck for a year and a half and our primary truck is 17 years old. How hard can we run that truck before it breaks down and then we're down to one truck and we have to borrow trucks, we're having to call other people in to come in and pick up Springdale residents.

Mr. Uhl: Just to clarify a couple of things by way of staffing. We're currently in a hiring process right now. We've wrapped up the physical agility testing, we wrapped up interviews today, and they should have, hopefully, two conditional job offers made by the end of the week. So, we're getting closer to the staffing issue. Rolling stock is what it is, and we keep up with those. We don't have a set program because sometimes we can extend the life of certain pieces of equipment. For instance, one of the ambulances went down. There was an issue; something was struck underneath it and it dislodged an oil filter, and causing all the oil to drain out of the motor, and that's not good. The engine seized up. We have to replace the engine. So, in essence, we have a new ambulance of sorts sitting over there right now. It's a brand new engine. Now, I know all the parts that go on it are not necessarily new, but, we believe we have a 2013, I think a 2012, 2013, and I think the one you keep referring to is a 2006 ambulance that we use as a "third out"; it's not a "primary out". We do run three ambulances when the need arises. We do have a third ambulance that can go out the door. So, currently, we have two. We returned the one to Sharonville. The tower that you speak of, we were talking about replacing that two years ago, and the Fire Chief made a recommendation to us that was, "Let's get an engine in the house before we do a tower." That's the primary unit that runs out the door. It makes EMS runs, it can also handle the large majority of the fire runs that we service here in the City. You're correct in saying that the tower is not going to reach these taller buildings. But, the City of Cincinnati does not have a fire apparatus that can accommodate all of their structures either. So, there's only so many feet that they can put on a ladder on a vehicle. So, we're limited by that, but, moving forward these are all things with all the developments, those are all things that are taken in to consideration. Turning radiuses, as well, outriggers on towers. Obviously with streets that can present a problem if you can't put your outriggers out to get your ladder up to the residential tower, that creates some concerns. So, our staff as it sits now are very much in tune to what the needs are from a staffing perspective, but also an equipment perspective. We're currently doing a facilities assessment on all of our City facilities to help us guide and prioritize certain improvements that we can make, so, I know you had a couple of other questions and I'd be more than happy to talk to you after the meeting and give you my card and what not. We can talk about and answer some of those questions.

Mr. Haugh: Okay. I just, in visiting the firehouse and hearing everything it was a little disconcerting as to the age of some of the trucks and wanted to kind of get that on Council's radar because I have met the Fire Chief once. I know I've talked to him and I don't know if it's a budget issue or what, but, having a "second out" truck right now that's 17 years old makes me question, "Do we need to fully replace it if it's going to be a 'second out' for a little while? Should we be moving forward to replacing it as opposed to waiting to see if the insurance is going to pay for a new truck, is it going to fix the old truck that was in an accident, or do we have to borrow another truck?" And, so forth. It just seems like our Fire Department could be much better than it is and I think that will also affect those who apply and the quality of candidate we get coming into the City.

Mr. Anderson: I just wanted to add I thought Mr. Uhl's update covered a number of items I was going to say, but first I wanted to say I do appreciate you coming out tonight and taking time out to raise the concern. I think that's a perfectly valid question to ask this group. I hope you got some of the answers that you were looking for from Administration. I do want to highlight that facilities assessment that Mr. Uhl mentioned in passing at the end, that is one of

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Mr. Anderson (continued): the key mechanisms I know I'm looking for as a member of Council to help prioritize some of that spend. Especially as we talk about the new development TIF money. Because, you're right. The Fire building itself seems dated; it's still functional. The Police Department; same thing. The Fitness Center, the Community Center today, it's the same challenge. So, as a Community, we will need to get together and figure out what those priorities are. I do want to also mention, it was about two years ago the Public Safety Committee, which a standing committee of Council, did meet to review the staffing levels for the Fire Department and the Police Department specifically. Out of that, we did make a number of recommendations that were adopted that increased and changed the level of some of the staffing of the Fire Department so we had additional positions and then filled those. We also made a conscious effort, which was difficult, to replace some of the part-time firefighters with full-time. That also makes a big difference to some of the applicants you mentioned. Some people are very interested in the new toys, and I think you'll find if you went to the Fire Station and talked to some of the team over there, they're still excited about the new fire trucks that they've gotten. We did look at the ladder truck two years ago, but that was deferred. I think that makes sense looking at the budget. There's only so much we can do, but it's not lost on us. We're not ignoring it. We do have Public Safety Committee meetings and we talk about that, and this group, as a whole, has talked about it as well. I think that facilities assessment will be interesting to look at as we prioritize that. I think we all that if these developments continue, we are going to have to make some changes. Not just with the Fire Department, but also the Police (Department). We might need to add a substation closer to the core of the City, things like that. That building needs more renovations. We invested over a quarter of a million dollars a year and a half ago in it to update the locker rooms and ventilation, and update some of the jail, the holding cells. So, we're making those investments. I just didn't want you to think that it's being ignored. Because, I haven't seen that. But, it is fair to ask what we're doing so, if you didn't get enough detail, I'd encourage you to follow up with Mr. Uhl as he offered. All of us are also available to answer those questions as well. I can tell you personally my stepdad was a fireman with Sharonville for 20 years, more than that. So, I'm very personally sensitive and I feel tuned into it. I know Chief Stanley does a great job over there with the team that he has and they've got a really impressive group of people. I wouldn't get hung up on the 17 year bus per se, especially when you talk about diesel heavy duty machines like that. But, it is not the first out the door, and we're always going to have to take a look at that. I guess I'm saying I appreciate you coming out and asking the question. If you don't feel like you got enough answers, feel free to reach out to us so we can dig into it some more. We do want you to feel safe. My parents still live in Springdale, and they're older. I have family here too, so if I do need to call an ambulance, I hope it's going to be there too, so I'm interested. Thank you.

Mr. Hawkins: Echoing what Mr. Anderson said. We appreciate you coming out and sharing your input and questions. Just a few things. The big thing, and you hear this word a couple of times is priorities. So, the number one priority, I think, for Council, for the Administration over the time period when I've been here since 2009 in terms of sitting on Council has been Police and Fire. You go back to 2009, we had a lot of cuts that took place as we saw a lack of funding from the State. Some changes that the State legislature and the Governor made that impacted us greatly. The things that we were focused on when we couldn't go out and do our annual \$750,000-\$1,000,000 for street projects, road repairs every year. We had to give that up because we didn't have the money to. There's always still a focus on making sure that Police and Fire was able to do what we needed to do for our residents and keep us safe throughout that time period. So, it's been a major priority; it will continue to be a major priority. The other part in terms of forecasting. It's something that the Administration, and Council continues to look at. Each year when we go through and we do a budget, that process looks like this; the Directors of each department, so, in this instance, you'd be talking about the Fire Chief, Chief Stanley, will give a "wish list" to the Administration. The Administration will work with those Directors in going through what is really needed, what is sort of wanted, and where are we at in terms of, again, prioritizing the needs so that we can have every department function as it's supposed to and take care of residents, what have you. That then comes to the Finance Committee, the Finance Committee goes over that, has that discussion, the Budget goes out to the entire dais, members of Council, and then Council goes over all that, and we go over and have that discussion with regard to it. There are things that get forecasted out, and you've heard from Mr. Uhl, and Mr. Jones, and Mr. Anderson regarding some things in terms of rolling stock, trucks. Those things are very, very expensive. I think that the engine we just got may have been the biggest capital cost that we've made ever or at least in recent time. Those

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Mr. Hawkins (continued): ladder trucks, just from the time that I've been on Council from 2009, have gone up exponentially, and so we're not flush with cash. We're very prudent with regard to the money we have, and very optimistic with regard with the money that we will get in the future, hopefully. But, this is not like some place to our south and has a golf course that loses money, or another place that's got a convention center that prints money. We're not in that same position. The money that we have, and the money that we're going to get, we do forecast. We have to look at what are the priorities in terms of what we have to take care of and when do we have to take care of them. And, your question in terms of Council directly, you heard from the Administration, I won't speak for the other six people up here, but, part of what we're doing because we're part of the legislative body, is we're listening to the input and taking input from the Administration in terms of what do we need. They're coming to Council asking for money essentially or, we're approving money. We've got to listen to what that input is. The person who has the greatest amount of input and is closest to it is our Fire Chief. So, when our Fire Chief tells Administration, "We need 'x'", Administration tells Council, "We need 'x'", Council has a discussion with regard to that. And, we still have to be prudent with regard to, and good stewards of your finances, your tax dollars, my tax dollars, everybody's tax dollars with regard to what we do. But, that information comes to us and, if our Fire Chief or Police Chief, or whomever says, "We're okay. We can do this next year, or in two years." I trust that person. They've been put in a position to handle that and make those decisions. So, as you've heard, none of this is stuff that we haven't thought about. The new developments, be it Merchant Street, be it at the area soon to be the former Tri-County Mall. We realize you increase the population, we're going to have more Police, more Fire; staffing is going to change, facilities may change and you heard there's discussion with regard to assessing the facilities; our five buildings. And, that may result in a new firehouse, or a firehouse moving and we may have a new building or an old building redeveloped to house the Fire Department. So, rest assured, those are all things that are on our radar going forward. But, it is something where we've got to make choices. We can't do everything all at once, but, rolling stock is something that gets talked about every single year and it's not just for that year, but it's also forecasting for, "Hey, we're going to do this this year, or we're going to have to wait a little bit." Okay?

Mayor Webster: I'd just like to address the high rises or this new development at Tri-County Mall that is going to have several six, eight, ten story buildings and we used to have a ten story building in the City with the Sheraton. Well, you can't service anything above four floors. Now, I was asked the same question at one of the Community Engagement meetings we had a few weeks ago, and, our retired Fire Chief was sitting in the front row. And, I said, in answer to that question, I wonder how we're going to service these six, eight, ten story buildings, the fire code only requires us to service up to four stories. If you go above four stories, you have to have self-contained fire suppression systems in place. So nobody has fire trucks that can go up to ten stories. And so, we're not going to do it either. So, they just don't make equipment like that to service ten stories. And, so, after the meeting, the retired Fire Chief who used to sit right here on City Council said, "You answered that perfectly. That's exactly right. Four stories is what we are required to service, and have equipment to do so and we have that presently with our ladder wagon." Now, also, when he was sitting on City Council, his advice was we don't even replace that ladder wagon. Now, here's a guy that's been in the business for his whole life, and he said when that goes "kaput", just don't replace it. Replace it with another pumper. And so, now, as Mr. Jones said last year we put the budget together, he asked the Fire Chief if it was time to do the ladder wagon. The Fire Chief said, "No, he'd rather have a pumper." So, now we have a pumper on order now being built and we're paying lease payments on the thing. So, we appreciate your concern, but, believe me, I think you're in good hands.

Mr. Uhl: Just to kind of land this plane too. We had some early discussions, probably five months ago with the Fire Department knowing that the squads are one of those things that make the volume of runs. That's the "high run volume" all of our EMS calls. So, in theory, we have an EMS department that puts out fires. So, our ambulances are priority in that facility. But, several months ago, they formed an internal ambulance committee to start looking at different specifications on what that next "build out" would look like. So, they have, I think, one more meeting. The design team has actually gone to a manufacturer to spec out certain things on a box on a unit. And, you are correct, the "build out" time is between 14 and 18 months. So, we do know that probably sometime later this year, we'll have to place that order

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Mr. Uhl (continued): so that we can get delivery, hopefully sooner than later. But, we do know there's a time lag, so we're months away from probably hitting the "go" button on an order so that they can build that out and then figure out the financing.

President Vanover: Well, I'm going to come at it at a little different angle. We've an aerial that's 20 years old in service; still in service. To me that's a credit and a well-deserved pat on the back to the efforts of our fire team over there to keep that vehicle going. And, the vehicle before it was 20 plus. And these are diesels. These aren't gasoline engines. So, it's not a fair comparison to say. Well, I've got a 2009 Ford work van and she's still going. She's not the prettiest thing, but she gets me there, and gets the job done for what I need. That aerial that Mr. Hawkins mentioned, the one there was \$675,000. The next one is going to be at least double that. And, there aren't going to be many communities our size that are going to be able to afford new toys. Because, the cost of them...talk to Mr. Agricola about the cost of our dump trucks that we put out through the snow and the winter. So, this to me is a well-deserved pat on the back and I haven't heard one of our firefighters come in and say, "Man, I've got to take that old goat out down the road." I think they hop on that truck and respond to a call with the same vigor when they started. So, to me that's a well-deserved pat on the back and that's the type of people that we have working at our Fire Department. Our Police Department is the same way. So, it's just a different shot, and a different set of eyes looking from a different point. Our wish lists are out there, we've had plans in place; we shifted plans. We had that new apparatus coming through. So, it's not that we're just sitting here waiting for something to happen. We are actively looking ahead because we have to. It's your tax dollars, and the last thing you want is for us to be frivolous with it. But, again, I thank you for coming out and voicing your concerns. Mr. Uhl is a wealth of information if you've got any other concerns, questions, reach out. Thank you.

Mr. Hough: Thank you.

### Executive Session – Economic Development

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup made a motion to go into an Executive Session to discuss Economic Development and also include Bond Counsel in the Executive Session. Mrs. Ghantous seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 7-0 vote to go into Executive Session. Council departed chambers at 7:57. Council returned to chambers at 8:44 p.m.

### Ordinances and Resolutions

#### Ordinance No. 13-2022

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 12-2005; DECLARING IMPROVEMENTS TO CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE, OHIO TO BE A PUBLIC PURPOSE; DECLARING SUCH PROPERTY TO BE EXEMPT FROM REAL PROPERTY TAXATION; REQUIRING ANNUAL STATUTORY SERVICE PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES; CREATING AN URBAN REDEVELOPMENT TAX INCREMENT EQUIVALENT FUND FOR THE DEPOSIT OF SUCH STATUTORY SERVICE PAYMENTS; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF SERVICE AGREEMENTS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: This document is four legal pages long, and it is all available if you would like to get a copy from the City, you can contact them and do a public records request. It will all be available, but, just to save time and honestly Mrs. McNear's voice I would like to make a motion to make it by title only.

Mrs. Ghantous: Second.

The motion to read Ordinance No. 13-2022 by title only passes with seven affirmative votes.

Mrs. Ghantous made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 13-2022; Mr. Hawkins seconded.

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Mr. Anderson: Just one point since we did just read it by title only and it is the emergency clause. Can we just get a statement as to why it's an emergency instead of the normal course. Is it contracts, development schedule? What is the reason that it's an emergency ordinance?

Mr. Braun: There's a couple of reasons. As everyone is aware, we're working on the Tri-County Redevelopment Project. There's a schedule of things that have to take place in a certain order and I think we had talked about that two meetings ago as well that we needed to pass a succession of pieces of legislation; one of them was a development agreement, then an amended development agreement, now a TIF agreement, and we're asking that this be passed as an emergency so that we can begin to provide those assurances to the developer that this mechanism, this economic development tool is available to them so that we can keep the project on schedule and obviously begin to generate this revenue for the benefit of the City at the earliest possible date.

Mr. Anderson: Thank you for that. I appreciate it. I do agree that that makes a lot of sense not to delay it for a technicality like this. We've been talking about this TIF since the beginning of the development and the developer should get those assurances. Thank you.

Ordinance No. 13-2022 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Ordinance No. 14-2022

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CLERK OF COUNCIL/FINANCE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH TEC ENGINEERING, INC. FOR THE PROVISION OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR THE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE OF THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE'S TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 14-2022; Mrs. Ghantous seconded.

Mr. Jones: We did not ask TEC to do this, but they kept the numbers the same as the previous contract and I just thought I'd point that out.

Ordinance No. 14-2022 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Old Business	-	None
New Business	-	None

Meetings and Announcements

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Planning Commission will meet in these chambers on Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Mrs. Ghantous: Board of Zoning Appeals will meet on Tuesday, the 26<sup>th</sup> in the chambers here.

Mr. Jacobs: Board of Health meets on May 12<sup>th</sup> adjacent to these chambers.

Communications from the Audience	-	None
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Update on legislation still in development

Mr. Hawkins: As you review your Internal Memorandum, Item Number I was addressed with Ordinance No. 14-2022; An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk of Council/Finance Director to Enter into an Agreement with TEC Engineering, Inc. for the Provision of Professional Services for the Operations and Maintenance of the City of Springdale's Traffic Control System and Declaring an Emergency. That passed with a 7-0 vote. Item Number II was addressed with Ordinance No. 13-2022; An Ordinance Declaring Improvements to Real Property to Be a Public Purpose, Declaring Such Property to Be Exempt from Real Property Taxation, and Declaring an Emergency. That passed with a 7-0 vote.

Recap of legislative items requested for next Council meeting

Mr. Hawkins: I have none unless there's any requests from Council or the Administration.

Adjournment

Mr. Hawkins made a motion to adjourn; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded the motion and Council adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McNear  
Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Minutes Approved:  
Tom Vanover, President of Council

\_\_\_\_\_, 2022