

City of Springdale Council

July 6, 2022

President of Council Vanover called Council to order on July 6, 2022.

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

President Vanover: First off, Council, this is our original solo on live, so I would ask that for ease of the work crew back there, that you speak into the microphone to make it easier.

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

The minutes of the June 15, 2022 meeting were considered. Mrs. Ghantous made a motion to accept the minutes; Mr. Hawkins seconded. The minutes were approved with seven affirmative votes.

Communications - None

Communications from the Audience

President Vanover: If you would, there should be a pad there to list your name and address please.

Mr. Messer: Can you hear me okay? So, my name is Daniel Messer, I'm a continuous resident of Springdale from my childhood on West Sharon Road, then I lived on Silverwood Circle, and now I live on (12182) Springdale Lake Drive. So, I've essentially been here all my life. I just wanted to briefly address the potential transition of Springdale Community Center over to the Tri-County area, and, what I think are important points to keep in mind. So, as I understand it, and these are rough numbers, so, I'm not trying to be too exact, but I think my point will get across. Our City is adding the following units to three locations; about 100 units at Merchant Street, 200 (units) at Sheraton Lane, 2,000 to 2,500 (units) at Tri County. Is that kind of close? Okay, just in rough numbers. This is all rental property that will attract many short-term residents; possibly some long-term, but, largely short-term. If the fitness center and pools and gyms are used as a draw for new residents, then these short-term residents will be highly represented members of this facility. Our current membership at the Springdale Community Center, I think, is around 1,500. This number could easily double in the foreseeable future, and possibly even beyond that. So, are we being realistic about the future influx of people and the sharing of space in our Community Center is my question and who are we as a community and what are we building our community around? So, here is my biased, and "I can't help but care, and want the best the community" opinion. I think that the families that do the long-term growing, living, and dying in this community are the lifeblood of the community. And, the center of our community does not first serve them, as it is offering a disservice to them. I'm thinking about the young families that bring all of their kids through swim lesson programs, the SAY Sports that I played when I was a kid, and then coached with my kids through multiple seasons, outdoor activities that bring multiple cultures and age groups together. The kids of single parents that practically live at the Community Center playing sports and games. If we cannot replicate everything that our Community Center means to us as the center for our community, then we cannot rightly let go of our current facility in favor of a new one. That will quickly be used up by the new majority of membership. If the proposed young single professionals want to run men's leagues, basketball four or five nights a week, then where are the teens going to go to play basketball; especially in the wintertime. What will the summer be like without the outdoor pool? What will the daily and weekend operations of the Community Center be like with the disjointed system of fields and staff at two different locations? I propose that we maintain our current facility more or less in full with the TIF funds obtained from management of the new fitness center, regardless of where you all decide to put your office space. This will alleviate the need for much additional access work to get residents to the mall location and protect a much needed asset to the community.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Thank you so much for coming, Mr. Messer. I appreciate all of your opinions and statements. They're all true. People are very, very important in Springdale. I'm just going to really quickly talk about the same that I said when Springrose came in. Any time that we get new neighborhoods in, or new people; people get worried about that. What are they going to take away from us? It was the same thing I heard over there. What is going to be

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Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup (continued): taken away from us? We have a bigger facility that we're moving to. We have different things. We have some of the same, but we have some different things. Luckily, our Community Center is staying open as far as until we move over, if that's our choice. Our fields are still going to be there, the kids will still be able to play there. That is done. They're still going to be there. I want everyone to understand that these people that are coming in are still going to be Springdale citizens. They're still going to be our neighbors. Whether they live next door to you or they live at the communities that we're building, or not "we", the developers are building. I want everybody to understand that if we keep saying, "these people aren't real Springdale people", they're never going to feel like they're part of our community, and that's not what we want either. I know a lot of you guys personally. I can say that you're "good people". I feel like I'm a good person at the core of it, no matter what anybody else thinks about me. I think I'm a good person. I want these people to understand that when they come to Springdale, they're coming to a community that loves everybody who lives here. You don't always have to like them; not even close. But we're all in this together. We are all Springdale citizens; we all have a right to a Community Center; whatever it looks like. This is a huge decision. This is something that not, I hope, nobody else up here takes lightly. I know I haven't. I've heard from several people and they don't either. We want to bring the community together. This is centralizing it, kind of, more because Heritage Hill has been apart over there so long, and I've heard all my life how they felt disconnected. This might bring them a little closer to us. This might bring us all a little closer. We don't even know if we're going to go there yet. If we do, I hope that everybody does give a chance to the people who are moving to Springdale because they are still residents of Springdale. Yes, it will be an influx; absolutely. We would be lying if we said it wasn't going to be. There'd be something; whether it's two or 2,500; we don't know. I kind of like the idea with all of these new places going in that we do have the bigger facility as far as the workout and places like that because it gives more people more opportunity to do things. As opposed to here, they would be stuck with what we have now; older outdated gym equipment; smaller facilities. This does make it bigger. We do have the year-round pools in the plan that would help give activities for everybody year-round; hopefully spaced it out a little bit so the families and the kids and stuff can do different things. I will never, ever, not listen to opinions. I will never, ever not listen to what it is that you're trying to say. I think it's important, but I think it's also important that other people listen to what other people are saying too, and that maybe in the middle we could find some happy ground. That's all I'm asking. And, I do appreciate you coming more than you know, and saying your peace. That's awesome. I hope that you understand what I'm saying because I know that you are a good person. I only can speak to you personally because I've known you for a long time. I know that you're a good person. I know that's not what you were saying. I want to be very clear, but I do hope that when this new influx of people comes, that everybody in Springdale remembers that we are all neighbors. We're all in this together; one way or the other. That's just my piece. Thank you so much.

Mr. Anderson: I wanted to say thank you to Mr. Messer for coming in and sharing his thoughts on the Community Center. It's obviously something that's getting a lot of time. We had a number of sessions for community engagement. I know your family was well represented there and continues to be engaged at the meetings and then as we work through this. Just a couple of thoughts though. Just understand where we're at. One, I agree with Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup. I think it's great when people come forward and tell us what they think about it. I'd encourage not just you, but everybody to do that and it doesn't have to be at these meetings. You can share your ideas and concerns, and questions about this change, this development to any of the elected representatives up here. Our phone numbers are emails are posted on the website and we're available to answer those questions. I know I've fielded a few of them myself. I think it's important to remember that the numbers you gave; the 100, 200, and 2,000 that's "end state" type numbers for these developments. Tri County Mall specifically is a big phased installation. What was recently approved at the Planning Commission was about 500 units that would be in Phase One, which carries through for a couple of years. After that, they've talked about coming back and doing more. So, between that Phase One and the near term that we can plan for; you're talking about 800 to 900 units, which is about, you know, 12,000, oh, I'm sorry, about 1,200 people, depending on the occupancy and room rates. Springdale currently has 11,000 residents. So, you're talking about a ten to 12 percent increase in our size. That type of increase has been managed by a lot of communities as the census just recently happened. You saw a lot of areas; Hamilton

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Mr. Anderson (continued): has been growing at bigger rates than that. Hamilton County has been growing in bigger rates. So these kind of rates are manageable I think. It is a big change that we're talking about, but, it's not going to happen all at once. And, I think the message I hear from your question isn't so much, you know, "these aren't residents that would be welcome", I think just in our nature, we're going to welcome everybody as they come, especially if they want to participate in things like swim leagues and swim teams and adult basketball leagues. I think that's great. That's exciting that we can get an influx of people excited to be here. But, I think the challenge that I hear from that is how do we convey that vision; that timeline over time. Right? We've talked about this community center move as a one-time thing, right? We're going to make a decision. Everybody's asking when are we making the decision. We've talked about timelines for that and we're going to continue to have meetings and discussions about it. But, I think what's important is what happens after that decision. Either if we stay or go, I think we owe it to the community to talk about how we're going to maintain the current facility and that new one as it changes and evolves as people come in. When it opens, it's not going to be 800 people show up day one. It's going to happen slowly over time. So, how do we grow our services not just Rec Center, but Police, Fire, infrastructure, Public Works, all of that? So I think what I hear from that is that the Community is still very engaged on this decision, and that's great. But, the challenge I hear from it is how do we communicate what we see happening right after that, right? What's going to happen to the current building if it moves or how do we maintain it or expand on it? There's nothing that says that we can't take that current facility we have and grow it to meet the needs of those new residents too. Those are still all on the table. So, I'll leave it at that but say thank you for the feedback. If you have more specifically as we go through design, as we work through that, let us know what your concerns are. I firmly believe that more people that ask questions will challenge us to do a better job investigating, and I think that's important. Thank you for coming out and sharing your concerns. I share a lot of them. I think that we are moving in the right direction. I know Administration has worked very hard over the past several months trying to figure out how we can do that. The real challenge is that a lot of it's happening in the background and I don't always see it, and you certainly don't always see what's happening, so, hopefully, we can communicate more of that in the future. But, in the absence of information, keep asking questions. They're welcome. I'm happy to take them; we're all happy to take them. Thank you.

Mr. Jacobs: I wanted to thank you as well for coming out. I know we talked by phone and I want all the residents to realize, and you can't always just come in and take time out and speak like Mr. Messer did. If you can't do that, you can also send an email to Mrs. McNear that the entire Council will hear. It's not that I don't want to receive individual emails and I respond to them, that's great. But, I think what you're doing, coming up here to the microphone, or sending emails to Mrs. McNear can reach a much wider audience and as Mr. Anderson said, that puts the right kind of pressure on us. Because these are tough calls. The tradeoffs for various residents, depending on where they live, because in Heritage Hill this might be a benefit for you; the facility is closer. If you're in district one or two, you might have a four or five time additional distance to get to this new facility if what we have at the existing center isn't there for you. So, these are really tough questions. We're asking the questions, we want to hear more from you guys. So, I do appreciate you coming out. I wish I had easy answers for them. But, as Mr. Anderson said, this is a long process, and there's a lot of shoes to still drop. But, again, I appreciate you coming out. Thanks.

Mr. Ramirez: I also thank you for coming out. It's really important. We are listening. The more people who come out and the more views we hear, the easier it is for us to make a decision. I've been a resident for 52 years. I want the right thing for the residents. I want the right thing for the community going forward as well. But, we have to remember is all these new folks moving into our community; they are welcome to use the Community Center, whether it's at the current location, or it's at the new location. So, they will have an influx of more people, but, going by the numbers you just gave us, it looks like one and a half percent of the population actually belongs to the Rec Center. So, going forward, if that happens again we're adding 120 people if the same ratios stay the same. So, I think we need to look at that again. I agree with you. I don't want to be overrun and not have enough facility moving forward if we do move. If we stay where we are, it is what it is, right? And, there are a number of things that need to be taken care of at the current facility. I grew up in that facility, I've officiated for 25 years. I played

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Mr. Ramirez (continued): softball, my kids did. That's near and dear to my heart that Community Center. But, I want what's best for the community going forward as well. Thank you for coming in.

Ordinances and Resolutions

Resolution No. R13-2022

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TAX BUDGET OF THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JANUARY 1, 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023

Mr. Braun: The agenda does not reflect it, but you are required by Ohio law to have a Public Hearing in advance and you did advertise a Public Hearing for tonight. So, it does not reflect it on your agenda that you have in front of you, so, I would ask that a member of Council make a motion to add a Public Hearing to the agenda as it was advertised and hold that public hearing before you move forward with a vote. And, the Finance Director is here as well, obviously, to verify that.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I'd like to make a motion to add a Public Hearing to this Resolution R13-2022.

President Vanover: Do we have a second?

Mrs. Ghantous: I'll second.

Mr. Anderson: Sorry, I just want to make sure it's clear what we're doing. We need to amend the agenda as well as the ordinance, or the resolution correct? So, it's both things, or just the resolution?

Mr. Braun: Just amend the agenda. The resolution already reads in the second "whereas" clause that a public hearing was conducted.

Mr. Anderson: And that was the intent of Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup's change?

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Yes.

Mr. Anderson: Thank you.

The motion to amend the agenda to add a Public Hearing for Resolution No. R13-2022 passes with seven affirmative votes.

President Vanover: Okay, at this point we'll open a Public Hearing and welcome anyone that would like to speak either for or against Resolution No. R13-2022. I understand we have a presentation.

Mr. Williams: Good evening. This is the presentation of the Tax Budget. What can I say about the Tax Budget; required by the County. The purpose of it is solely to determine. So, we're projecting balances at the end of next year. The end of 2023. So, the purpose of this for the County is to determine if the County needs to put on additional tax levies for the City. I mean, that's always been the purpose. Where do we get the numbers from? When we look at the current budget, we make adjustments as deemed necessary to where we are so far in the year, and, then, from the prior five-year budget, is where we pool the numbers for 2023 and then any adjustments are made as deemed necessary. In the tax budget, anytime you get money from the County, whether for property taxes, or for payments in lieu of taxes, as with our TIF (Tax Increment Financing), then you get a separate sheet, so, you'll see the General Fund has a separate sheet, Northwest Business, or the Pictoria TIF, the Tri County Mall TIF, and the Commerce Park TIF have their own schedules, and then the County just requires that all other funds have a summary sheet for 2023. One thing of interest this year, and a timesaver in the General Fund, where you'll notice from prior years that for each department, there was much more of a breakdown on the expenditures side. This year, and I've confirmed that we could do this through Hamilton County, to present everything just for

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Mr. Williams (continued): personal services and then other expenditures where last year you had personal services, you had capital outlay, you had contractual services, supplies, those kinds of things. It saved a lot of time in the preparation of this to be able to do this at the summary level. Then also, we have a schedule that's taken from the five year budget activity of Capital Improvements that are scheduled. And, then the last page is a schedule of the debt. Are there any questions regarding this document?

President Vanover: You hit them all.

Mr. Williams: Okay.

President Vanover: Thank you sir.

Mr. Williams: Thank you very much.

President Vanover: The floor is still open for comments either for or against. Second call, third and final call. We'll close the public hearing.

Mrs. Ghantous made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R13-2022; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded.

Resolution No. R13-2022 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Resolution No. R14-2022

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING FUNDS FROM THE STATE OF OHIO FOR THE CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS AWARD TO REPAIR AND REHABILITATE OUTDOOR TENNIS AND BASKETBALL COURTS AT 11999 LAWNVIEW AVENUE

Mr. Hawkins made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R14-2022; Mr. Anderson seconded.

Mr. Ramirez: Not that it's going to change my vote, but is there going to be any provision to allow the tennis courts to be used for pickle ball as well; conversion?

Mr. Uhl: Yes. There is a provision in there. We're going to. Mr. Wilson's plan is to kind of redo some of the courts down there and take out some of the tennis courts and convert those to pickle ball courts to get more use and then put new backboards and hoops, new asphalt, redo the entire project down there, so, we're chiseling away at the iceberg. The 2021 quote we received last year was about \$192,000. We've been successful with the Hamilton County grant of about \$19,000, and this grant of \$75,000, so, we're about halfway there. There's two other grants that we're pursuing to kind of make this project possible, so, we're going to keep hammering away at it.

Mr. Ramirez: Thank you.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I did have questions on this today, so I'd like somebody in Administration or somebody to please help me explain this best. The question was fixing these courts while we are possibly moving over to the Tri County area. I want for those people who may not understand, I want to be very clear on what if we do go over to the Tri County location, what will still be at the current facility?

Mr. Uhl: I'll defer to the Mayor first, and then I'll speak next.

Mayor Webster: I think we've said all along that all the courts are remain down there and I think this just reemphasizes the fact that we're not going to just let those go to hell; that we're going to continue to maintain them. What was the total bid?

Mr. Uhl: \$192,000.

Mayor Webster: \$192,000 we're going to spend on those courts, so it's not like we're going to walk away from them if and when we would move the center over to the other side of town.

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Mr. Uhl: Just to add to that, regardless if we move or stay, those courts need to be redone. They're cracked and everything else, so we think this is an opportunity to improve another amenity down at that space for the residents and members.

Resolution No. R14-2022 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Old Business - None

New Business - None

Executive Session - Sale or Lease of Property and Economic Development

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I move that we go into an Executive Session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(g)(2) to consider the purchase or lease of property and pursuant to the City Charter to discuss Economic Development matters related to the proposed redevelopment of the former Tri County Mall site.

President Vanover: Do I have a second?

Mrs. Ghantous: I'll second that.

President Vanover: Discussion at this point? (None) Administration will we anticipate anything coming out of that?

Mr. Jones: No action.

Motion to go to an Executive Session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(g)(2) to consider the purchase or lease of property and pursuant to the City Charter to discuss Economic Development matters related to the proposed redevelopment of the former Tri County Mall site passes with seven affirmative votes. Council departed chambers at 7:26 p.m. Council returned to chambers at 9:19 p.m.

Meetings and Announcements

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: There will be no Planning Commission meeting in July.

Mr. Hawkins: Finance Committee will meet July 20th at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Conference Room.

Mr. Uhl: I'll defer to Joe Braun real quick.

Mr. Braun: Okay, I was just asked by Mr. President by you to remind the members of Council that prior to the meeting tonight, shortly before, I sent an email to certain members of Council. You may be aware that we've been receiving a high volume of records requests and a lot of it related to the individual Council members, so I sent copies to you, and I was also asked to remind you that in the future you should try to use the Springdale email accounts because it's a lot easier for us to respond to these requests and track them if they're through the Springdale server, so, I know you don't have a policy that requires that, but, if at all possible, you should try to limit your communications to going through the City server because it's very easy then for us to pull the data down and produce it. We did produce some of the information today and we anticipate producing some more tomorrow on a couple different requests.

President Vanover: Mr. Braun, legally, there's some sticking points. I know that we have to basically state, guarantee, that what we present when we're asked to present these items that this is all we have, correct?

Mr. Braun: Yes. And, essentially, I've tried to push all of my communities to only use Municipal, Township, County, School emails so that we're 100% guaranteeing transparency and accountability. There is no rule in Springdale that requires that unless Council were to adopt a rule that would require that. But, obviously, you know, we'll operate however Council

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Mr. Braun (continued): decides to mandate that, but, the easiest way to do it is to run it through the server, and then we don't have to interrupt your day and bother you when it comes to these records requests, and what people are looking for.

President Vanover: Since we're on this, let's kind of stay on this topic just a minute.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I had a quick question. Because when I got on Council, we all got City Council, like we all got the Springdale.org. I was under the impression that that was what we were supposed to use because of Sunshine Law stuff and in case anybody were to request anything that's why I thought we were supposed to be doing all of our City business out of our City email. Is that not correct? And if so, how do we change that so that it is so that everybody is doing the same thing? I don't want to end up messing anything up. I want everybody to have information if they ask for it.

Mr. Uhl: Yes, I agree. The simplicity of having the Springdale or using the Springdale.org account makes it a little bit easier for your Council-related business. Easier for us to maintain and certify the accuracy of a public records request, and those email accounts are all available to everyone. And to dovetail off that, we've taken another step to put in a phone number for each elected official so that they don't have to use a personal cell phone number, or a home phone number if they don't desire to do that either. So, we have that through the voice over IP phone system that the City uses, so that's available to you as well. We can get you set up on that.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: A quick follow up to that. How does that work? Can we have that to where it goes to our or can it be designed to where it can go to our cell phone, or how does that work? Is there a voicemail system?

Mr. Uhl: Correct. So, there's an app that you would download on your phone. We would get you set up with your Springdale credentials and then assign that phone number to that app.

President Vanover: And, in that vein, it's very easy. I've been doing that for a couple of months now. Something like that, and it was flawless.

Mr. Uhl: It's convenient, and when you call someone back, it comes up the City exchange, so that they'll know somebody from the City is calling them back.

Mr. Anderson: How do those other communities manage the fact that business happens outside of those designated email addresses? Do they continue to send those requests to those elected officials to confirm there isn't additional information? We've been using private email addresses and phone numbers in Springdale forever, even in transition, do you still go back and ask them if there's anything else, because it seems like you'd still have to.

Mr. Braun: Yes. I always will ask if something relates, for instance to Mr. Vanover. I will always send the request to you, but what has happened in these other communities, is they now immediately respond to me and say, "Everything I do, I do through the email that's through the City", or if they say, "Did you send a message to someone?" "No, I don't communicate by text message." Or, whatever means, but it has eliminated, and it takes a while to phase out, but, it's something that, I guess, that we've become creatures of habit, which means that if we're used to using our Springdale.gov email account or .com, however we set it up, then, we're going to begin to do that. It just depends on what level of transparency you want to have as a local elected body. And, the easiest way to do it is the way that we're talking, which means that if you have a laptop, or a server that are destroyed, or stolen, and begin not to work, it could create a problem for you. The City automatically backs ours up in a certain way, and we always have it. We don't need a password if you die to get into your account so that we can answer some record requests. You know, there's lots of scenarios we can think of, but, again, it's not required right now; it's a recommendation. To Mrs. (Sullivan)-Wisecup's point, there's a little bit of trust involved in it, but, at the same time, we're managing it right now. Obviously though, the preferred method would be for all communications to be routed through your City email or number.

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Mr. Anderson: And, does that include text messages? You mentioned the voiceover IP (VoIP). I know I probably do, in terms of resident interaction, I get just as much texts as I do emails. How would that be managed in the situation you've described?

Mr. Uhl: For that, I'm not exactly sure how a text would be captured, if that is a function of the system. Let me look into it a little bit more. There is an off-shoot of the system that operates kind of like Microsoft Teams, you're familiar with that to kind of capture those threads. I don't know if that will allow another, if you're not already on the City's system, if that will allow you to come in or transfer out, so let me look into that as well as another option.

Mr. Anderson: I think that would be interesting. I know with (Microsoft) Teams it's difficult if you're in an outside domain for it to be internal for teams. That's a challenge they've worked with before. I'm sure other people have solved it. I know I can, I would suggest if we're thinking about switching, that at least in a bridge, we consider defining what the requirements are as policy for people to take on if they were to use personal technology instead of using the Springdale site. I know I personally had a lot more trouble with the Springdale email servers even getting them working than I've ever had with the systems I use now, and it's very easy for me to conform and comply with these requests. So, I know my preference would be to just say what those requirements are and then have an "opt out", as opposed to requiring everyone to go through a City service. I don't know; that's me.

Mrs. Ghantous: I agree. I agree with what Jeff (Anderson) said.

President Vanover: I mean, I'm probably the most "old school" of "old school", and I made the rollover six, eight years ago, and did not have any issues. The good news is with the laptop that I had, as a matter of fact, I was on the phone with Anthony (Pagan) today, because some sort of update that it wouldn't allow me to close out Outlook, and we got it figured out. It just took another reboot, just short of the universal "hammer disconnect", but, I personally think that there are, especially in the day that we are seeing more and more records requests, and we have been bit once before on that that I think it's a very smart thing to do, but that's me.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I've always used the Springdale one since I came in just because it was given to me, and I thought that's what we were supposed to do, so I just kind of did it. If the number had a capability of text messages, that would be even better, because that way when I get messages in, I would know what is City business, and what is personal. That would be helpful. I don't know how that works, if that's possible, that would be awesome. Any time that we can get people to streamline to us and make it easier if there are records requests, or whatever, I'm in favor of whatever is going to be easiest for the City.

Mr. Ramirez: Are we notified in some way if we're involved in one of these records requests because as far as I know, I've never been involved with one. How would we know if information about an individual Council person is being asked information on us?

Mr. Braun: So we send that to your City email address and if you check it, it will be in there.

Mr. Ramirez: So, nobody cares about me. (Laughter)

President Vanover: Well, not quite, one of the most recent ones was you were named. Mr. Anderson, myself.

Mr. Braun: Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Hawkins.

President Vanover: Mr. Jacobs, and Mr. Hawkins were all named on this most recent records request.

Mr. Braun: So, the other thing to know is obviously the City email works if you check it, so, you do have to be careful about that. We typically don't, I will say this, if it's just related to one Council member, I usually do call them by phone. I've called individuals up here at the

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Mr. Braun (continued): dais before, and I still try to follow up with that. I will tell you, Mr. Ramirez, the one that I was referring to I think you were out of town when that one came in last week, but, and I know you were not here for the special meeting. You'll find that in your City of Springdale email address, but the other thing to remember is depending on what the request is; if it's between two people, you can also pick up a copy from the recipient, versus the sender. So, either way, if you check your Springdale address; that's typically where I send your communications to because it's coming off a private server from my firm, and I don't want to have to search for it. I want it to be able to go to the City server.

Mr. Anderson: I just wanted to add I appreciate that you're trying to normalize things, which is why I suggested our standardized things which is why I suggested having a, you know, a policy for what you'd have to comply with, and I think for most people it might be easier, more efficient. I can, just speaking for myself, it would not be easier for me, technology-wise interacting with the residents if I had to switch and use City services. But, I may be the exception. I come from a tech background and the most recent example with the records request, I mean there was a substantial request. It only took me a few minutes to comply with the entire thing, and I'm confident that everything's in there, because I have access to the back end and it's actually easier for me to know that everything's there instead of relying on multiple places to search.

President Vanover: Well, to me, the legal ramifications are what concerns me the most because it's against the City; primary, secondary, would be us individual. Mr. Uhl, if you'll check on the text messaging, and how that flows, I think well, give you two weeks to think about it. I think that we need to standardize in some form. Quite honestly, my first blush is we have the City email there, we go to it. So, well, I will plan, they can put it on the agenda, we will have this discussion again, and call the question of where we want to go with this, because, I think, the time has come that we need to address this issue for everybody's, as they would say in the insurance industry, "Care, Custody, and Control".

Mr. Jacobs: Rules and Laws next meeting will be held on the 20th. We were unable to meet tonight.

Mr. Anderson: Board of Zoning Appeals meeting has been cancelled for this month. There's currently no applications.

Mr. Uhl: I would just like to let everyone know Civil Service will be meeting tomorrow, July 7th at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Conference Room. Just to dovetail off of Mr. Hawkins' request for the Finance Committee meeting, we will be discussing a potential purchase of a new ambulance. We have received some updated information within the past couple of weeks. Production times have now grown from 16 months to 20 months, and they're also facing a seven percent price hike if we don't get an order in by the end of this month. So, cost of materials and fabrication have gone up dramatically, and they anticipate August 1st a seven percent price hike. They've locked us in until July 21st or July 22nd, so, we'll be presenting all of this to the Finance Committee on July 20th prior to the Council meeting. If the Finance Committee chooses to move forward with that, we will have legislation prepared and we'll probably have an emergency clause associated with it to meet that timeline, and to lock in that price, and get in the queue for a 20 month build out. So, just to make you aware.

Mr. Jones: Primarily from Parks and Rec; just wanted me to share that in July it is Parks and Rec month. And, celebration of Springdale Community Center is providing free outdoor and family activities. Such as, Storybook Stroll, Pet Photo Day, Art in the Park, and Playground Picnic Day. In addition, the Concert in the Park, Thursday, July 21st at 7:30 p.m. Performance is one that we know, right, Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup, the Remains; a classic rock and modern hits group. They seem to be a popular group there. Also, Teen Summer Splash Pool Party; that's Friday, July 22nd 8:00-10:00 p.m. That is for fifth through eighth graders, and finally, happy to report that over 110 members have joined in the last month, thanks to the SilverSneakers Medicare Membership Program. Thank you.

President Vanover: Let me go back just a second. Mr. Braun, the email question, that falls under the rules of Council, correct?

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Mr. Braun: Yes.

President Vanover: That would be our direct.

Mr. Braun: That's a Council rule; yes.

President Vanover: It would just be, basically, a motion and a vote from that point, correct?

Mr. Braun: Yes, or you could also, if you're just going to say you should have to use City email, that can be a motion. You could also do a policy like was suggested by some others here. That would be a policy you would vote on and adopt; maybe send that through a committee or something like that. Maybe Rules and Laws or something, but, yes.

President Vanover: Okay.

Mr. Braun: Yes.

Mr. Anderson: I was going to suggest that as maybe that's something that Rules and Laws could look into to see if there's an option there for a policy or a change, instead of doing it kind of "ad hoc". It seems like a big change to me, but maybe it's just because I'm living in the tech world, but, maybe that's something they could look at first, and then come back to us with ideas.

President Vanover: Well, we'll get the answers from Mr. Uhl, and we will revisit this next meeting, and we'll decide what avenue, and we'll shift from there.

Communications from the Audience

Ms. Wells: Hello, my name is Katie Wells. I live at 11486 Bernhart Court. I actually just wanted to follow up and see if this is live streaming today or where we're at. The second thing that I had. I have been doing a lot of reading online, and I've seen that communicating and community outreach is brought up a lot, so, I found something that is not my idea. I can't take credit for it. This was actually something I read back in November 2009. This was from Julie Matheny. I found it online. She had a really good idea. It said "where we could have 'Council Representative Night' where we can convene and have the forum to provide feedback, suggestions, concerns, and yes criticism about various issues that may be affecting our City." I really, really think that's a good idea. So, I just wanted to know if we've ever planed that quarterly, monthly?

President Vanover: Well, I can speak personally. I had had district meetings in the past. Well, actually the last one was probably held over at Heritage Hill Elementary before we got blockaded. Some have been well attended; some not so attended. It's always an option. There's nothing preventing it. I know the Mayor did a Mayor's Night for several years, and it just, for a lack of attendance, fell on its face. So, that's pretty much up to, basically, it would be the district people, the "at large" can piggyback in, but, that would be their prerogative in their jurisdiction.

Ms. Wells: Thank you. Maybe, yes, I think that's a really good idea though. I know a lot of people I've spoken with would love the opportunity to hear more, so, livestreaming is awesome, but yes, maybe if we could plan a couple of meet ups, like community outreach programs, that would be awesome; I would appreciate it. Thank you guys.

Ms. Hiratsuka: My name is Riei Hiratsuka, I live on Kemper Road. The website is not easy to use at all. When I went on the Ordinance, the Code of Ordinances, I couldn't find what I was looking for very easily, unless I knew what Ordinance. Well, when I reached out to try and find out what Ordinance number it was, it wasn't; I'm sorry I really don't do good in front of a microphone, but it's not easy to use and don't think that information should be kept like that. The search engine, no, not the search engine, the search option. It doesn't use when you use the general internet. I'm sorry. It just needs to be fixed or updated. We live in 2022.

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Mr. Uhl: I appreciate your input, and we are actively redesigning a new website as we speak, so, it does have a lot more search interfaces, and is a lot more user friendly from a user perspective. So, we're in the very infant phases of it right now with just what it would potentially look like and where things would go. But, hopefully, by the end of the year, we'll have something that we can present to Council to show them and hopefully move forward with that project. But, the intent is to make it a lot more user-friendly and to have more information accessible to the user.

Ms. Hiratsuka (off mic): I did. I'm sorry, I just do better not in front of the microphone. I did mean to mention that when I reached out, someone did tell me that. I just think that needs to be done sooner, rather than later. Sorry. But, thank you for giving me that information earlier. Thank you sir.

Mr. Uhl: It takes about six months. It's not all on our end. It's some of their back end work as well that has to happen, and data migration, so, but, we will get it out sooner than later for sure.

Ms. Hiratsuka (off mic): Thank you.

Update on legislation still in development

Mr. Hawkins: As you review your Internal Memorandum, Item Number I was addressed with Resolution No. R14-2022; A Resolution Authorizing an Agreement Between the City of Springdale and the State of Ohio for the Capital Appropriations Award to Repair and Rehabilitate Outdoor Tennis and Basketball Courts at 11999 Lawnview Avenue. Item Number II was addressed with Resolution No. R13-2022; A Resolution Adopting the 2023 Tax Budget of the City of Springdale for the Year January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. That passed with a 7-0 vote as well. All other matters were forthcoming.

Recap of legislative items requested for next Council meeting

Mr. Hawkins: There's a request for An Ordinance Authorizing Contributions to Certain Health Accounts for Full-time Employees of the City of Springdale Related to the City's Health Insurance Plan and Declaring an Emergency. There also potentially will be legislation for a new ambulance with an emergency clause. That's it unless there's anything else from Council or the Administration.

Adjournment

Mr. Hawkins made a motion to adjourn; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded the motion and Council adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McNear
Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Minutes Approved:
Tom Vanover, President of Council

_____, 2022