

City of Springdale Council

September 6, 2023

President of Council Vanover called Council to order on September 6, 2023

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

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

President Vanover: Council, before we go over the minutes, you should have received the corrected minutes. The date on the initial (minutes) was incorrect. And, I picked up, and Mr. Anderson also made note on our page nine, it's actually in the official it's page 12334; it's down in the bottom third. It's essentially, a typo; a homonym situation where the word "Counsel" should replace "Council". But, other than that, that's all I have. Were there any additions or corrections otherwise? (None) The minutes of the August 16, 2023 meeting were considered. Mr. Anderson made a motion to accept the minutes; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded. The minutes were approved with six affirmative votes.

Communications - None

Communications from the Audience

Mr. Stowe: I am David Stowe and I am proposing a jake brake ordinance on Crescentville Road on the new stretch from Tivoli down to Chesterdale Avenue. During a snow emergency, that's a possibility that can be put on, that we can get a sign put up, or whatever, but, the truck traffic is horrendous, and, it's a residential area, in Heritage Hill going down that area, and so we all feel in the neighborhood that it should have jake brake restrictions. It rattles my windows, and it's very loud.

President Vanover: Just for the record, what's your address?

Mr. Stowe: Well, I live at 990 East Crescentville Road.

President Vanover: Okay. So, I don't disagree with you. That's something that I know I have talked to about and asked and primarily about Interstate 275 too, because that's my back yard, but, we'll run it to the Administration, and see what we can do.

Mr. Uhl: Yes, if you wouldn't mind signing in on the sheet there with your name, address, and either a phone number or an email address, and, we'll check in our Code to see if it's permitted, and then we'll see what other options are potentially available to us.

Mr. Stowe: There's one on (Route) 747 down further past Mulhauser I believe, and there's not even, it's not a residential area. Then, you know, the other issues are the loud cars and loud stereos.

Mr. Anderson: I seem to recall us talking about this when we were doing the warehouses. I thought we had in the covenants already a prohibition for that down (Route) 747, and Crescentville, so, I guess what I'm saying is would it also be inside of there because we talked about truck traffic when were doing the PUD discussion. Does that sound familiar to anybody else? I remember talking about

President Vanover: Well, I know in some of our Zoning "re-do's", it's been brought up, so, it may be just something to get taken care of.

Mr. Anderson: I'm 100 percent for it. I thought we already had a prohibition there, so, I'm surprised that it's not, and maybe we just need more signs if that's the case.

President Vanover: Right.

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Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I agree with you Mr. Anderson. That's what I was saying to Mr. Vanover beforehand is that I remember that when we were specifically dealing with Strategic that I thought that we had addressed the "jake braking", but I didn't know exactly. That was a while ago, so, I don't off the top of my head know exactly what it was, so, it's very possible that it is.

President Vanover: Thank you for coming in.

Mr. Menchen: Good evening my name is John Menchen. That's spelled M E N C H E N. I reside at 11720 Van Camp Lane. I've only lived in Springdale for a few months. I've been living in other parts of Ohio as well. What I have found is that the construction in other areas appears to be endless to the point where people are making a joke that if you want to plant the State flower, it's a traffic cone in a pothole. I'm also concerned with how long the project took place on East Kemper Road. I'm not really sure what was happening there along with some paving perhaps, but that seemed to take about maybe ten, twelve weeks, and then, at the same time, Forest Park was doing something on their end of Kemper Road, so, you had both things happening at the same time, and there's this crunch of traffic and the fact that it's seemingly going on statewide, and I know we can't control statewide, but, I think it would be a much better use of everyone's time with the construction if we only did maybe one thing in Springdale and that would be with the unoccupied buildings on Tri County Mall where they're knocked down, nobody's occupying them, so they're better off just being knocked down and we can put up trees, make the air cleaner from what's coming off of (Interstate) 275, and on (Route) 747 because when you have the construction like you do, the traffic won't be used to it because lanes will be constantly changing, you'll have more traffic cones, and the driving public is always at risk for these kinds of changes, and there has to be a point where we say, "Enough is enough. We've done everything we need to do.", and call it "Done". And, that's what I would like for the Council to consider at a point where we can just call it "done".

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I just want clarification, you mean you don't want us to do any updates on our streets, or you don't want us to do any updates? Because, Tri County Mall we don't own. So, we can't knock that down. We don't own that. But, I'm trying to understand because I know what you're talking about on Kemper Road where we had things that we had done as well as over in the Heritage Hill area there was construction that was done with Butler County, and things like that, so, we do other things in conjunction with other people, so the things that we're having done were different from what Forest Park was having done, so if they had theirs done and finished faster, or things like that, they had a whole different scope; a whole different thing that they were doing than what we were doing, so, that's why ours might take longer than somebody else's or something like that. It just depends on the job. I just wanted to make sure that I understand what you're asking. Are you asking about road work; you don't want us to do any more road work, or are you talking about buildings? I want to make sure I understand.

Mr. Menchen: Again, what I'm mainly concerned about is the risk that this sort of activity presents to the driving public, especially when seemingly every year there's something else that's happening. So, what I'm asking for, is a point where we say, "It's done. We've done all the improvements that we can possibly do on these streets, and then we're done. And, I have yet to see that happen. And, as I've said, I've lived in different parts of Ohio and when I was living up by Dayton, that one junction of Interstate 75, and it was 35; that took ten years to finish. I really don't know how we're expected to be patient with something like that. So, yes, we do have to make improvements to the roads, but, really there has to be a point where we say, "It's done. It's up to code. It's where it needs to be."

Mr. Riggs: Thank you. The project you referred to on Kemper Road, on East Kemper, that was a bridge repair project. We replaced the deck. So, while there was a lot of work going on underneath the bridge while the lanes may have been closed above. It did take a long time to complete. And, there was a lot of traffic pattern changes because we had to maintain traffic, so, there was a lot of lane-jockeying, moving around just to keep traffic flowing through the area. Now, as far as the projects in the area, this summer was an unusually busy summer in terms of construction. It could be a good or bad thing depending on how you look at it. We made a lot of improvements; Kemper being one of them, Crescentville Road, Ray Norrish, we've got (Route) 747 going on, Route 4. It just so happened it was a perfect storm

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Mr. Riggs (continued): of where all the funding came to be this year. And, in hindsight, yes, it probably would have been better if we could have tried to look at coordinating the Capital Investments with the neighboring communities, but, a lot of the times, we're just at the mercy of the grants and the funding programs that we're a part of, so, I do agree that we did have a lot going on. As far as being done, we have a comprehensive plan, and a connectivity plan that outlines a lot of recommendations for the future that we're still trying to pursue, but we can definitely look at trying to coordinate those better with the adjacent communities as well as ODOT (Ohio Department of Transportation) but, we're, unfortunately, far from done.

Mr. Menchen: Do we have any ballpark figures for being done?

Mr. Riggs: The connectivity plan had, I forget the exact number, but it was \$20 million dollars-worth of recommended improvements. Now, the funding for all of those improvements haven't been identified, so, we're still trying to pursue funding, and, that's the unfortunate thing that we're up against is we're trying to prioritize the projects, go after funding, but, we're at the mercy of when we actually get funding to go to construction, so, it's really hard to coordinate, but, we'll make better attempts at doing so, especially when we know ODOT has a busy construction season, or an adjacent community has a lot going on too, because it's not really fair to the public to be sandwiched between two construction zones.

Mr. Menchen: Every season there's something else happening.

Mr. Riggs: That too is driven by private development. So, as soon as the mall takes off, when that gets going, it's going to look a lot different around the area as well. So, we're trying to meet the demands of the private sector, as well as trying to maintain our own assets with traffic signals, roadways, bridges, culverts, you name it.

Mayor Webster: We have 138 lane miles in the City of Springdale and there's no way that our budget would allow us to maintain those 138 lane miles without some outside funding. So, as Mr. Riggs indicated, a lot of this, when we do these projects, a lot of it has to do with when the funding becomes available. We try to stay on top of this and look ahead, say, Ray Norrish Drive we know will need resurfacing, so we might make an application this year, but it might be two years before we get that, so once we get it though, we usually have to act on it. We can't stall it off a lot of times. The other thing is a lot of these projects we do in concert with a neighboring community. And, so, we might be the lead agent. Well, like Crescentville Road for example, it's been on the drawing board for 20 years probably, and we finally got all of our ducks lined up and everything fell in place this year, and, I think Butler County was the driving force behind it. They were the controlling force, but, all we did was make a contribution to that. But, I mean, a lot of these things are out of our control as far as timing, but, when you live in an area like we live in, with all the freeze and the thaw cycles that we go through every year, we're never going to be able to fix a road and walk away from it. That's never going to happen. There's constant maintenance, and, so, I don't see any end in sight. As Mr. Riggs indicated, this summer was an extraordinary season because we had the huge project on Crescentville Road, we had the one on Kemper, and (Route) 747, and we're not through yet. We've still got some resurfacing to do on 747. I hear what you're saying, but that world doesn't exist. We're not going to just repair a road and walk away and never have to go back to it. It's a constant thing. We do the best job we can at maintaining traffic and making it as convenient for businesses and people who patronize those businesses as we can, but, there's going to be some inconvenience. You just can't help it.

Mr. Hawkins: And, just piggybacking on it, appreciate the inconvenience it is, I personally have a business that is in Forest Park, off of West Kemper, and that was a nightmare on a regular basis going back and forth from Springdale working my way up through Kemper. But, as it has been indicated, the infrastructure is critical for our residents and businesses coming through here. But, back in 2008, 2009, before 2009, the City was on a schedule to make sure that we're keeping up with the roads; about \$750,000 to \$1 million dollars would go in annually, around the City in various places, just to make sure that you don't have a pot hole in front of your home, and that businesses have good roadways going back and forth to keep attracting them to come in. I can tell you this that the City picks vendors, the Administration gets approved by Council, individuals that do a very good job in terms of how they go through and manage that, and manage traffic. And, I say that in

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Mr. Hawkins (continued): comparison because there's some other neighboring cities that don't do a good job with regard to that. They maybe have one flagger instead of having flaggers on each side that are communicating back and forth. So, Springdale is cognizant and aware of making sure that we make this less of an inconvenience for our residents and our folks coming through here as we can because we know it's inconvenient. We know that it is. And, as indicated, we do try to plan it out, but, sometimes, when the money becomes available, we've got to use it at that point in time. So, we're aware of it, and appreciate your concerns on it, but, it's something where we try to make it as easygoing as possible for you and for ourselves, and business holders in the City.

Mrs. McNear: The honest truth is you better get used to the color orange. We will never be finished doing road repair, and, not just the City of Springdale, but, anyplace where we have the cold, the freeze, the hot weather, and, that's a good thing. As annoying as it is, and trust me, my street has been closed down more times than you can imagine this summer, because the alternative is potholes. And, if you live in a place where they don't fix the roads, it's really terrible. I come from Philadelphia where your whole car will get lost in a pothole. So, it is annoying. My whole street was torn up, my yard was torn up this summer because of the things that were done up there, but, the honest to God truth is we will never stop fixing our roads. Because, that's part of our job up here is to make sure that you have roads that are drivable. Now, if you look at (Interstate) 75, they've probably been working on that section over by Princeton High School for a good ten years. We were just driving down there the other day and I said to my husband, "I think they were working on this five years before you retired, and he's been retired for three, and they're nowhere close to being finished. Now, as soon as they finish the section where they've been working now, it's going to be in a condition that they have to start over again. So, the honest truth is we're never going to be finished. And, remember, it's a good thing. As annoying as it is, it's a good thing. And, I'm sorry. I wish we had better news to give you, but, it's the "good news, bad news" story. But, thanks for coming in and sharing your pain, and we feel it too. Thank you.

Mr. Menchen: Thank you very much.

Mr. Jones: We would like, if it's okay, at this time, if we could get Mr. Wilson from Parks and Rec up before we go to the ordinances.

President Vanover: Sure. That's fine.

Mr. Wilson: I appreciate your time this evening. Tonight, I'm here to announce the Tenth Annual Springdale ComeUnity Bash. It's kind of hard to believe that it has been ten years since moving here and us starting this program, or this event. So, the event and festivities will take place this Saturday, September 9th, down over at the Community Center. I'm sure some of you have seen the work that's getting done for the Mud Quest. We'll kick off the festivities at 1:00 p.m. with our family mud quest, and for those of you who don't know, our mud quest is a family-oriented mud obstacle course, built for everybody to enjoy. Now, we are taking registration, but spots are filling up, so, if you're going to sign up, please do so in a timely manner. Then, starting at 3:00 p.m., is when we open up the rest of the festivities. We've invited a lot of non-profit, and local groups to help support themselves. They're going to sell food, drinks, and yes, they will sell alcohol. And then, we also plan on having a few family-friendly events. We plan on having our climbing wall, inflatable games, face painting, the petting zoo, and then, back by popular demand, we plan on having the funnel cake food truck, and the dog trick show. So, we plan on having two separate dog trick shows. One will be at 5:30 p.m., and the other will be at 7:00 p.m., and those will last about 30 minutes. After those are over, the bands will start. So, we have two bands planned for the evening. One will be at 6:00 p.m., which is Just Vince and the Fellas, and then the next will be at 8:00 p.m., which is My Girl Friday. I believe that's all I have for you guys. Any questions?

Mrs. McNear: Hey Charlie, thanks for coming this evening. Just wanted to bug you again about when will the pony rides return? Because, I was really looking forward to seeing my granddaughter ride bareback with her hair on fire.

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Mr. Wilson: No, absolutely. That's something we can check into again for next year, but she will get some exposure to some animals and we will have our petting zoo, so, she'll have to fake it for now.

Mrs. McNear: Thanks.

Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance No. 36-2023

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CLERK OF COUNCIL/FINANCE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE BOARD OF HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO ADMINISTER THE COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION GRANT AWARD FOR THE INSTALLATION OF SIDEWALKS ALONG TRI-COUNTY PARKWAY IN THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE

President Vanover: Council, this is a first reading. We will see it again on the 20th (of September); our next meeting. Any discussion? (None) We will see it again

Executive Session

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I move that the Council go into Executive Session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(1) to discuss the compensation of a public employee.

President Vanover: Do I have a second?

Mr. Hawkins: Second.

The motion for Council go into Executive Session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(1) to discuss the compensation of a public employee passes with six affirmative votes. Council departed chambers at 7:26 p.m. Council returned to chambers at 7:50 p.m.

President Vanover: Council is back in session after retiring for an Executive Session. At this point, I am going to release Council from confidentiality pertaining specifically to this session that we just had.

Old Business	-	None
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New Business	-	None
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Meetings and Announcements

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

Mr. Jacobs: Board of Health will meet next Thursday, September 14th at 7:00 p.m. adjacent to these chambers.

Mr. Uhl: Civil Service will meet tomorrow, September 7th at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Conference Room.

Mr. Anderson: Board of Zoning Appeals is scheduled to meet on September 26th at 7:00 p.m. in 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. 36-2023; An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk of Council/Finance Director to Enter Into an Agreement with the Board of Hamilton County Commissioners to Administer the Community Revitalization Grant Award for the Installation of Sidewalks Along Tri-County Parkway in the City of Springdale. We had a first reading for that.

Recap of legislative items requested for next Council meeting

Mr. Hawkins: There will be a second reading of Ordinance No. 36-2023; An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk of Council/Finance Director to Enter Into an Agreement with the Board of Hamilton County Commissioners to Administer the Community Revitalization Grant Award for the Installation of Sidewalks Along Tri-County Parkway in the City of Springdale. There will also be a request for an ordinance with an emergency clause regarding retention notice for employees.

Adjournment

Mr. Hawkins made a motion to adjourn; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McNear
Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Minutes Approved:
Tom Vanover, President of Council

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