

City of Springdale Council

January 3, 2024

President of Council Anderson called Council to order on January 3, 2024.

President Anderson: If everyone could rise for the Pledge of Allegiance, and remain standing after the Pledge if you would. We're going to hold a moment of silence for Ms. Barbara Ewing. Ms. Barbara Ewing passed away on December 24th. She was a former Springdale City Council member, and I believe, the first African-American on Council for the City as a whole. So, after the Pledge if you could remain standing for a moment of silence.

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

Moment of silence for Ms. Barbara Ewing.

President Anderson: Thank you.

Ms. Browder took roll call. Council members Anderson, Gleaves, Jacobs, McFarland, Vanover, Webster were present.

President Anderson: Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup gave us notice she's not feeling well and will not be at the meeting tonight.

The minutes of the December 6, 2023 meeting were considered.

President Anderson: Before you there was a correction of a typo at your desk at the dais when you came in. The only change on that typo was one of the names, it just had the wrong name attached to it. It was changed to "Anderson" from "Vanover". With that, what is your pleasure?

Mr. Jacobs made a motion to accept the minutes; Ms. McFarland seconded. The minutes were approved with six affirmative votes. (Sullivan-Wisecup was absent)

Communications - None

Communications from the Audience

Mr. Sheffield: Yes, my name is Sam Sheffield, Crossings at the Park. I'm one of the Board Members for the Crossings at the Park. Can I sign this afterward?

President Anderson: Yes, you're fine.

Mr. Sheffield: I live at Crossings at the Park. In order to enter our place, we're right over by Amazon. You have to come in Strategic and then the street going back to our place is Crossings Court. Crossings Court is littered with Amazon carts. It happens on third shift. There's a lot of days it's cluttered at 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, and maybe 2:00, 3:00 in the afternoon, they clean it up. Now, we have worked with the Police Department. The only ability the Police Department have with the carts left out is to give somebody a ticket if they observe them. Also, I know there's been some contact with Amazon itself, and they were supposed to issue "tickets" to their subcontractor drivers. Apparently, that's not working. It's a safety concern. It's a litter concern. Truthfully, to be honest, for it to be effective, I would think they should not be allowed to conduct business on public streets. They should conduct business at their property only. And, the only way I see that being effective is if you make that a "non-loading zone". The other thing is, like some of the snow that they're talking about, what if there's three inches of snow tonight, and there's ten carts laying out there? How's that street get plowed by the City? And, I guess that's pretty much it.

President Anderson: Would anyone want to address that?

Mayor Hawkins: First off, thank you for coming in.

Mr. Sheffield: Well, certainly.

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Mayor Hawkins: So, the first part is, you're doing the right thing and folks are doing the right thing in letting us know, letting law enforcement know, letting Administration know so that we can address that. Sounds like there's been some communication you've already had with regards to that.

Mr. Sheffield: Yes. I called the non-emergency number myself this morning. There's only four carts out this morning, but, there's been more in the past, and, within two hours they had them cleaned up, as opposed to 1:00, 2:00, 3:00 in the afternoon.

Mayor Hawkins: Is it every day that you see this, or is it sort of sporadic?

Mr. Sheffield: I'd would say it's between three and four days a week.

Mayor Hawkins: And, so, they're out in the morning, they sort of go back, and they clean up their mess?

Mr. Sheffield: Well, I may have neglected (to say) it, but, only their subcontracting drivers. It's not their actual employee drivers. It's the ones where they're using their personal cars for delivery.

Mayor Hawkins: Well, it sounds like there's been some contact. We will look into that, and we'll make sure someone gets back to you in terms of follow up; in terms of what's going on with that. But, appreciate you coming in. If you don't come in, we may or may not know what's going on. There's some things that we know about that may not be publicized, but it's always important to come in give us this information.

Mr. Sheffield: We'll continue to call the non-emergency number.

Mayor Hawkins: We appreciate that.

Mr. Sheffield: I have to fill this out.

President Anderson: Make sure you put your name and address down there so they can get back in touch with you.

Mr. Vanover: For those that don't know, the corral that they put these carts in for the subcontractors are on the south end of that building, and, they evidently go up, pull them, and take them down the street. They are numbered, so, Amazon should have some way of tracking those people, but, yes, because these carts are probably about five to six feet wide, and about four feet, four and a half feet tall, so, it's not just like a grocery cart. They're fairly substantial, and he definitely brings up a good point. They're talking this weekend that we may see snow, and, our plow drivers are good, but I don't know if they're that good. So, thanks.

Mr. Sheffield: Thanks a lot.

President Anderson: Thanks for coming in.

Mrs. McFarland: Sorry. Just so I understand, it's the people that drive their own cars; they go up, they get their cart, they bring it down, and then they just leave them there in the middle of the street.

President Anderson: That's right.

Mrs. McFarland: Okay. Thank you.

President Anderson: For what it's worth, I've seen it after, I think one of the seniors, Dale, who has come in here before, has talked with us when they were doing the transition and building the warehouses, he had reached out prior, and we talked about that. Ever since then, every time I drive by there, on the way to Crescentville, I always look down to see if there's a cart there to see it. So, yeah, it's being looked at.

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Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance No. 01-2024

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY ASSOCIATED WITH THE NORTHLAND BOULEVARD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Vanover made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 01-2024; Mr. Jacobs seconded.

Ordinance No. 01-2024 passes with six affirmative votes. (Sullivan-Wisecup was absent)

Resolution No. R01-2024

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO FILE A FUNDING APPLICATION FOR URBAN FORESTRY INFLATION REDUCTION ACT GRANT FUNDING FOR ESTABLISHED TREE PROGRAMS THROUGH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. Jacobs made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R01-2024; Mr. Vanover seconded.

Resolution No. R01-2024 passes with six affirmative votes. (Sullivan-Wisecup was absent)

Resolution No. R02-2024

A RESOLUTION DECLARING INTENT TO APPROPRIATE FOR PUBLIC USE PROPERTY REQUIRED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD AND OTHER TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS ON NORTHLAND BOULEVARD IN THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE

Mr. Vanover made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R02-2024; Mr. Jacobs seconded.

Mr. Braun: I was just going to explain to Council before you begin your deliberation, this is a complete list of the remaining properties we've not reached an agreement on, however, things are moving fast and furious, and some of the properties that are listed as part of this exhibit, we have reached an agreement on in the past couple of days. We hope, keep your fingers crossed, that the remaining ones will also come to an agreement on. If they don't, as I explained last time, we need to pass this piece of legislation and there will be a companion piece of legislation at your next meeting this month that, the holdouts if you will, will go ahead and authorize the filing of a lawsuit against them. It's our hope that we don't have to file a lawsuit against any of them, but, because the deadlines on this project, which are January 19th, just two days after your next meeting, we need to go ahead and include all the properties on this as if we're proceeding full scale towards litigation on all of them. But, I just wanted to make you aware there are not as many remaining as it appears, but, we still have a handful. So, we're working. We have a call again tomorrow morning to discuss these, and, I wanted you to know we're working behind the scenes to try to close this so that this Northland Boulevard project can move forward, and we can do what we want to do, which is create these improvements. So, thank you.

Resolution No. R02-2024 passes with six affirmative votes. (Sullivan-Wisecup was absent)

Resolution No. R03-2024

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING ADVANCE PAYMENT FROM THE HAMILTON COUNTY AUDITOR

Mr. Vanover made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R03-2024; Mr. Jacobs seconded.

Resolution No. R03-2024 passes with six affirmative votes. (Sullivan-Wisecup was absent)

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Resolution No. R04-2024

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INVESTMENT OF MUNICIPAL FUNDS

Mr. Vanover made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R04-2024; Mr. Jacobs seconded.

Resolution No. R04-2024 passes with six affirmative votes. (Sullivan-Wisecup was absent)

Old Business

Mayor Hawkins: Just wanted to take a moment to ask residents that as they find circumstances, particularly in and around Heritage Hill where there may be nails, or information regarding anything with regard to folks throwing nails, please contact the Police Department. It's important that we get that information in, and that we can notify law enforcement as well as our Public Works so we can clean it up, and we can investigate it. But, it's very important that when those things come up that folks contact the City so that we can look into it and investigate it as opposed to just posting on social media, which is fine, but, in order for us to do something, we need to know. So, the Police Department, specifically, needs to know the "when", the "where", the timeframe so that they can look at it, log it, and try to put that with their investigation. It's important that residents know that the City is still continuously street sweeping, walking it with magnets, extra patrols are in that area. It's multiple times a week, sweepers coming through there, I think, compared to the rest of the City, the average is going to get it once a quarter, thereabouts, so, it is heightened attention in Heritage Hill and the surrounding area trying to address that situation. There's nothing that anyone can say that's going to comfort anyone that's gone through having to get nails (removed). That is not something that is a fun thing to have to go get new tires. It's not a fun purchase, like a shiny new toy, but, wanted everybody to know that the Administration is still addressing that and trying to work through that. And, doing so in conjunction with West Chester and Sharonville as information comes up. Those Police Departments can share information, but it's critical that our residents, people that come to the City, if they see something, please say something so that we can try to resolve that issue. Thank you.

President Anderson: And, on that point, they should call the Police non-emergency number if they were to find like a pile of nails or a handful or a couple of nails on the street just so they can track it. It's not going to be an inconvenience. We want them to do that.

Mayor Hawkins: Correct. And, then from there, I think the easiest thing we've talked about is that law enforcement can contact Public Works in terms of cleaning that up. But, yes.

President Anderson: Good. Thank you. I know it's been a hot topic. I've seen and had a lot of people reach out. I got a nail in my new car. It had less than 2,000 miles, and I had only driven it down one road, so I knew where I got it. It was a real concern, but, Administration jumped in and ran the sweeper I think that same day or the next day. I know I've seen Police out there walking the street. It looked like they were looking for nails. So, it's not "unseen". Thank you.

Mr. Vanover: To piggy back on that, not only if they see, but if they are continuing on my lucky streak, pick them up in their tires, make sure that PD (Police Department) knows about that, or, the Administration. As a matter of fact, I saw the street sweeper over in Heritage Hill today, this afternoon. But, yes, it's ongoing. We hoped that we had solved that issue, but I just got tire 19, so, it's real money in a little over two years. If you see something, do let us know because we have to stay on top. I did have some other things if I may continue.

President Anderson: Please.

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Mr. Vanover: I got notice yesterday from the Ohio Ethics Commission that it is that time of the year. We have until May 15th to file our statements, and that is an every year thing. You get to pay for that luxury. They are not forgiving. On the 16th, the meter has already been running, so, they will fine you, so, just, in fact you can do it online. You all should have gotten the email, if not, check with the Administration and make sure that you've got it. The other thing, the last meeting we kind of closed out, there was going to be some discussion on the continuance of the Invocation practice. And, I just wanted to pull it back up, and I, for one, am in favor of that tradition continuing, and I will heartily volunteer myself if nobody wants to avail, or wants to, I will pick that up and run with it.

President Anderson: So, on that point, thank you for bringing up the invocation. It's on the list. What I'd thought might be nice is if we, I'll keep a list for each monthly meeting, and Councilmembers that would want to participate could just let me know, and we can have a sign-up sheet basically. That way people have an opportunity, but, not an obligation to participate, and I'm sure between Tom (Vanover) and I we can cover any open meetings where, if there isn't a volunteer ahead of time. One thing that I think is worth mentioning, at least how I understand the invocation, is it doesn't have to be you. You're welcome to engage community members to come in and give that same type of invocation. It's a way that you can connect again with Community members, or pastors or regents. It doesn't have to be religious. It could be inspirational. It just should be short and focus us on the work at hand is the only guideline that we generally do. We can certainly create rules and make it more formal if we need to. I'm proposing that we just go with an informal sign-up sheet that I'll maintain for now, unless anyone would like to make it more formal. In which case, we'd have to send it to like Rules and Law that makes those formal Council rules. Is everyone okay with the informal sign-up sheet for now? Okay. And then, in terms of frequency, we've not done it at every meeting in the past. We can certainly do that, or we can just start out having it at that second meeting where it's the full agenda. I'd propose starting out that it's just that second meeting each month, and in the summer ones, the summer schedule, it would be the only meeting. Is that alright with Council? So, basically there will be 11 chances to sign up. Sound good? Alright. And, if anyone has concerns or questions after the meeting about it, we can deal with it, but, starting with the next meeting, we will start adding the invocation to the agenda, and we'll include it on there. If you'd like to sign up for a random session, just send me an email. Or, give me a call or text, and if it's open, it's yours. Alright? And then, Tom (Vanover) and I can fall back as the "catch".

New Business

Mr. Gleaves: This is New Business. Something that I had received. Springdale Rec, they have a program, it's a 56 day challenge, I believe all of us got our email about that. The Community, I don't know how much of the Community knows about it, but they should know about it, and to further look into it, contact the Recreation Center. And, it's a really good program. It involves fitness; there is a run/walk club, which is a great idea. It is absolutely free. It involves nutrition, and there's nothing better than being in shape, and I think it's a really good idea, and, it should be communicated for our residents. If we can get it out there any more than we can, other than this, those watching, please contact the Recreation Center. It's a great, great program. It ends, I believe, the first week of March, and starts actually this Monday. So, let's get busy.

President Anderson: Should I feel targeted? You were looking right at me when you were saying we need to get more fit (laughter). I'm not sure if you're trying to...

Mr. Gleaves: I was looking through you. But, I think it's a really good idea. I just wanted to bring that up. Kudos to them.

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Meetings and Announcements

Mayor Hawkins: Want to make sure that everyone is aware that this Friday, at 6:30 in our new gym, we'll have the Hall of Fame induction, as well as the pep rally. Again, it will be 6:30 in the new gym. Then, the SYB Horse Racing event will be February 24th at 7:00 p.m. in the old gym. Again, February 24th at 7:00 p.m. in the old gym, and just so folks know, it's not just the horse racing, there's also a raffle. Folks can buy raffle tickets; \$15, I believe, at the Rec Center front desk. So, you don't have to attend to win, but, that money goes towards helping to defray costs for our young folks that are playing sports. Thank you.

President Anderson: Thank you. I know SYB counts that as one of their major fundraisers, so, anything we can do to help get people out there. It always seems like a good time. It's always crowded out there.

Mr. Vanover: I would like to have, well, you, Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup, and the Administration, I'd like to call the Rental Committee meeting for, typically, we've done the off Wednesdays the week of the 24th. Check your calendars, and we can confirm that day, but I'd like to get back on that track.

Mr. Uhl: I'd just like to announce Civil Service Commission will be meeting tomorrow, Thursday, January 4th at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Conference Room, and, since Meghan Sullivan-Wisecup is not with us this evening, I would like to announce Planning Commission will meet Tuesday, January 9th at 7:00 p.m. in these chambers.

Mr. Jones: Just a reminder that youth sports registration for baseball, coach pitch, t-ball, girls softball, soccer, and volleyball. All registration is now in process for that. New to the programming this year, will be instructional soccer, and, in addition, Martin Luther King Day on January 15th, the Community Center will actually be open from 1:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m., and the Administration Building will be closed.

President Anderson: I was just about to say how nice the mics were working this time, but, we ruined that. Keep going. I think we're good now. I'm not sure what that was.

Mr. Jones: I'm afraid to keep talking. Sounds like somebody's trying to break in. So, I'm actually finished. Thank you.

Mr. Gleaves: The January 23rd BZA meeting has been cancelled, and there is some training for all members that is supposed to be scheduled for this month. Is there any update on that?

President Anderson: I believe the intent was to have it be just ahead of whenever the next meeting actually occurs. I don't know if Mr. Uhl or Mr. Jones have more on that. Is that still the plan? So, it's whenever the next meeting is. It would be the hour before. Your next meeting will just start an hour earlier.

Mr. Gleaves: Okay, well, the next scheduled meeting after that would be February 27th. Thank you.

Communications from the Audience

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None

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Update on legislation still in development

Mr. Jacobs: As you review your Internal Memorandum, Item I was addressed with Ordinance No. 01-2024; An Ordinance Authorizing the Purchase of Certain Real Property Associated with the Northland Boulevard Reconstruction Project and Declaring an Emergency. That passed with six affirmative votes. Item II was addressed with Resolution No. R02-2024; A Resolution Declaring Intent to Appropriate for Public Use Property Required for the Construction of Road and Other Traffic Improvements on Northland Boulevard in the City of Springdale. That was passed with six affirmative votes. Item III was addressed with Resolution No. R01-2024; A Resolution Authorizing the City Administrator to File a Funding Application for Urban Forestry Inflation Reduction Act Grant Funding for Established Tree Programs through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. That passed with six affirmative votes. Item IV was addressed with Resolution No. R03-2024; A Resolution Requesting Advance Payment from the County Auditor. That passed with six affirmative votes. And, Item V, Resolution No. R04-2024; A Resolution Authorizing the Investment of Municipal Funds passed with six affirmative votes.

Recap of legislative items requested for next Council meeting

Mr. Jacobs: Requested for next meeting, we are going to have An Ordinance Amending Chapter 39 following changes that were made to the Charter, so we're cleaning up and addressing that language once again. And, we will be addressing the Budget ordinance at the next Council meeting. Unless there's anything else from Administration.

Mr. Braun: We also will have an ordinance authorizing us to proceed with appropriation on any remaining properties.

Mr. Jones: Mr. President, just wanted to add that we do have scheduled introductions for the Building Department and Parks and Rec that will be the first meeting in February.

Adjournment

Mr. Jacobs made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Vanover seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Browder
Clerk of Council

Minutes Approved:
Jeffrey Anderson, President of Council

_____, 2024