

City of Springdale Council

November 1, 2023

President of Council Vanover called Council to order on November 1, 2023

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

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

The minutes of the October 18, 2023 meeting were considered. Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup made a motion to accept the minutes; Mr. Jacobs seconded. The minutes were approved with six affirmative votes, with one abstention (Ghantous).

Communications

Mrs. McNear: We do have one official notification from Frank LaRose, the Ohio Secretary of State notifying the public that we do have an upcoming election on November 7th, and there are two issues that will be on the ballot. That is all I have this evening.

Communications from the Audience - None

Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance No. 44-2023

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CLERK OF COUNCIL/FINANCE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH SAMANTHA R. PHILLIPS FOR PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Hawkins made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 44-2023; Mrs. Ghantous seconded.

President Vanover: Just a note Council, our packets list October, and it is now November. It was a typo, she corrected the official copy.

Mr. Hawkins: Ms. Phillips is a University of Cincinnati undergraduate degree holder. Went to the University of Dayton for law school. She has been practicing for about seven and a half years, has a focus in her own practice with criminal offense. She also does Public Defender work in Middletown Municipal Court, and she's also an Assistant Prosecutor for the City of Hamilton; super conscientious, uber, uber prepared, and if she hadn't been practicing as long as she has been, I would say she is a young rising star, but she's been practicing long enough that she's there. So, she's doing a great job.

Ordinance No. 44-2023 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Ordinance No. 45-2023

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTERS 30 AND 38 AND REPEALING SECTION 94.202 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE, OHIO

President Vanover: Council, you've heard the reading of Ordinance No. 45-2023. It is a first reading. Is there any discussion this evening?

Mr. Jacobs: I'm looking at page 13, Section 38.06. I can just read it. It's a pretty simple question. "There is hereby created the position of Clerk of Council. Under the guidance and supervision of the City Administrator, the duties of the Clerk of Council may be assigned or employed in a full or part-time capacity." Do we know going forward whether this one is going to be full or part-time?

Mr. Uhl: The duties will be a part-time assignment to a full time employee. So, it would just be part of their duties.

Mr. Jacobs: Thank you.

President Vanover: Alright, seeing no more lights, we will see this at the next meeting.

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Resolution No. R15-2023

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2023 HAMILTON COUNTY MULTI-HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Mrs. Ghantous made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R15-2023; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded.

Mr. Jones: Briefly, we did this a few years ago, and it's a requirement to FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency). One of the things I wanted to point out is the adoption of the updated plan allows the City to continue to remain eligible for federal disaster relief funds and potential hazard mitigation funding. It also, if we do not do it, it requires that we do our own plan, and we would prefer not to do that. We'd appreciate your support on this. Thank you.

Resolution No. R15-2023 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Executive Session – Economic Development

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I move that we go into Executive Session pursuant to Article 2(D)(1) of the Charter of the City of Springdale to consider Economic Development matters.

Mrs. Ghantous: Second

President Vanover: Administration do we anticipate anything coming out of this action.

Mr. Jones. No. Thank you.

Motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to Article 2(D)(1) of the Charter of the City of Springdale to consider Economic Development matters passed with seven affirmative votes. Council departed chambers at 7:11 p.m. Council returned at 8:07 p.m.

Old Business - None

New Business

Mr. Jones: I have a couple of things that, well, technically they could be under "Meetings and Announcements", but I just want to ask if there would be some discussion tonight about the special meeting of Council for December 1st? Just wanted to make sure I brought that up. But, when we get to the next section, I'll have a few announcements.

President Vanover: Okay. Well, December 1st our terms end, well the terms of, it will be the newly elected, which would be the at-large people and the Mayor on November 30th, and, so, December 1st we have a swearing-in ceremony to swear in the new Council members, and the new Mayor, in this case. Time; typically we've always held the same time, 7:00 everybody good with that? We will have a judge here to do the process. Mr. Braun if you want to expound on that.

Mr. Braun: Just so you know, I'm in the process of obtaining an alternate judge. Our favorite judge, Judge Marsh is in the same position the Mayor is in. She's having a knee replacement surgery on November 28th. So, she said to me, "As much as I love the City of Springdale, I don't know if I'll be able to attend because of my surgery." And I said, "Hm, I don't like those odds." But, she was carrying on about the fact that she would love to be here, and that I was to send her regards. So, I am working to obtain an alternative judge to handle the swearing-in, and both options that I'm looking at, I think, are very good. I'll keep you updated.

President Vanover: Mr. Jones, you have anything else to add?

Mr. Jones: The only thing else I wanted to add in on that. I talked to our Mayor and what will be our incoming Mayor and we're working on arrangements on where to go subsequent to the meeting.

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President Vanover: Okay. Alright, well, we'll await further decision on that.

Meetings and Announcements

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Planning (Commission) will meet in these chambers on Tuesday, November 14th at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Jacobs: Springdale Board of Health will meet on November 9th, next Thursday, adjacent to these chambers at 7:00 p.m.

Mrs. Ghantous: Board of Zoning Appeals will meet on November 28th, which is a Tuesday here in the Council Chambers at 7:00.

Mr. Uhl: Civil Service Commission will meet tomorrow, Thursday, November 2nd at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Conference Room.

Mr. Hawkins: There will be a family dance this Saturday, November 3rd at the Rec Center from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. This used to be the Daddy Daughter Dance, and it's been opened up to make sure that mothers and sons are not excluded. But, there will be raffles, games, and obviously, music. Thank you.

Mr. Jones: Friday, November 10th Mayor, I don't know if I'm going to steal your thunder here about Veteran's Day Ceremony. I just wanted to make sure we got that out there.

Mayor Webster: Okay, go ahead.

Mr. Jones: That was first on my list. You were too late on the draw there. Also, so that will be at 1:00. November 23rd, the City Administration Building will be closed in observance of Thanksgiving Day. Monday, November 27th, is going to be the tree lighting ceremony at 7:00 p.m., here. Saturday, December 2nd, you're favorite event, you jogger/walkers. The Santa 5k Fun Run/Walk and Christmas Vendor Village. Tickets are on sale, and can be purchased online for \$20. The race starts at 9:00 a.m. and the Christmas Vendor Village is from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. that day and that will be held in the Auxiliary Gym. Thank you.

President Vanover: Just for announcements, I will not be here next meeting. I am planning to do a "O.J.", I'm coming back from out of the country and come through the airport, so, uh, yes, the airport, the Hertz Rent A Car commercial. I don't wear gloves (laughter), so, I hope to be in. I may not be in full dress attire, but will hopefully get through. We're touching down about 6:30 p.m., so, depending on the efficiency of American Airlines, and if I can get a Police escort from CVG in, and my running abilities, yes, exactly.

Mr. Ramirez: Mr. Jones, did you say the Veteran's ceremony was on the 10th on Friday?

Mr. Jones: The 10th at 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Ramirez: But, Veteran's Day is the 11th, Saturday.

Mr. Jones: Yes, we're doing our event on Friday.

Mr. Ramirez: Okay. Just so you know, the 10th happens to be the Marine Corps Birthday.

President Vanover: There you go.

Mr. Ramirez: So, can we get that in.

President Vanover: There you go, get it in. Hoo rah.

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Communications from the Audience

Ms. Chapman: Good evening. My name is Megan Chapman, and I live on Vista Glen Drive. I came this evening to say something regarding audience communications from the previous two Council meetings. Two meetings ago, a speaker was admonished for campaigning from the podium, and last meeting, an individual came up and was essentially campaigning for the Mayor's wife, and nothing was said to that individual. I just, it's infuriating to me that, like, things are not applied equally, and it's just seems it's convenient for some people to allow situations to play out whereas, other situations get gaveled.

Mr. Haugh: It's going to take me a second. Sorry. First off, can everybody hear me? There's been a lot of talk in the last few meetings about respect, and respecting each other, and communicating with each other. There seems to be a notion that the residents have to earn respect of the Councilmembers. That's not shared by all Councilmembers. Certain Councilmembers have said this, and I want to know how do we earn that respect? What can we do, you know, there's people in the Community for 40 years, have coached, have been a part of things, and you know, people have come out and said they have your respect. I've only been in the Community for 12 years, and I want to know how, and I've been told that, you know, I have to earn respect, and I want to know how I earn respect? I don't understand how I have to earn that respect.

Mr. Hawkins: I can only speak for myself. Sometimes questions come up that are directed maybe not to everybody that is on the dais. But, everybody deserves respect just like if it was a complete stranger, still going to be respectful to that individual, I would hope they would be respectful to me. Folks come through, I think it's the goal of elected officials to be respectful. We're here and there's an opportunity for residents to speak twice in the meetings, to get input. Sometimes it's going to be critical, sometimes it might be positive, but, the opportunity is here for folks to come in and give their input, concerns, questions, what have you. As we've talked about, sometimes they'll be addressed that evening, sometimes it'll have to be looked at and addressed later. But, at any rate, as we go through that, there should be respect from the dais, and as well as respect from folks that come through the well of Council to ask questions and address concerns. So, I personally think I've been respectful to everybody that's come through that I've addressed and talked to. So, I can't speak for anybody else, or anything other than that. But, I think everybody should be respectful.

Mayor Webster: I think every situation is different. Every person is different. In your particular case, for you to earn respect, I wouldn't begin to know where to start. Because, you've got a long, long way to go. Thank you.

Mr. Anderson: I just want to say I agree with Mr. Hawkins and his comments about respect. I think sometimes we get lost in a heated conversation where somebody might be asking a very specific question. If we don't know the answer, sometimes we don't like the answer that we get, these types of things happen. I'm also one of the people that believe all people deserve respect on face just for being a person, and I think it takes a lot of initiative, and wanting to do good in the Community to even come up to Council and have a conversation. I think sometimes the time and place matters. So, sometimes very specific questions are best handled outside of this meeting. We've had that conversation before. But, to be fair, you always have the right to come and give that feedback to Council in an open meeting. And, this Council has never pushed back on that. We've not taken away the opportunity to have two feedback sessions. I think that's important. But, to answer your question, I personally always enter into a conversation from a position of respect and kindness matters. But, that's just how I approach this. I agree with Mr. Hawkins' comments and I think that's how the vast majority of people engage in those conversations. But, people's reactions are going to be different, right? People's conversation styles are different, people's ways of asking questions are different. I've been accused of being disrespectful because I've asked questions. I just understand that people are coming from different places. So, to answer your very specific question, "How do you earn respect?", at least from me as an elected official, the fact that you live here, work here, and want and have good intentions, that's enough. Even if you have bad intentions, I'm willing to listen to you. I hope that that will continue, and I hope that you get the answers that you're looking for when you come to Council. But, I do push back though on this idea that people up here are not working in the best interest of the Community.

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Mr. Anderson (continued): I think we just go about it in different ways sometimes. So, I respect you, I respect anyone that comes forward, and I think that everyone here would continue to do that moving forward. Thanks.

Update on legislation still in development

Mr. Hawkins: As you review your Internal Memorandum, Item Number I was addressed with Ordinance No. 44-2023; An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk of Council/Finance Director to Enter Into an Agreement with Samantha R. Phillips for Public Defender Services for the City of Springdale, Ohio, and Declaring an Emergency. That passed with a 7-0 vote. Item Number II was addressed, well, will be coming forth at the next meeting. Item Number III was addressed with Ordinance No. 45-2023; An Ordinance Amending Chapters 30 and 38 and Repealing Section 94.202 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Springdale, Ohio, and that was a first reading. Item Number IV was addressed with Resolution No. R15-2023; A Resolution Adopting the 2023 Hamilton County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, and that passed with a 7-0 vote.

Recap of legislative items requested for next Council meeting

Mr. Hawkins: There's a request for An Ordinance Enacting and Adopting the 2023 S-26 Supplement to the Code of Ordinances of the City of Springdale, Ohio and Declaring an Emergency. There will also be a second reading of Ordinance No. 45-2023; An Ordinance Amending Chapters 30 and 38 and Repealing Section 94.202 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Springdale, Ohio. I believe we will also have legislation regarding the prosecutor and magistrate for the next meeting?

Mr. Jones: We were talking about that today, Mr. Hawkins. One of the things we put in place last year was if it's a continuation of contract and nothing changes, then, they just roll over.

Mr. Hawkins: Okay.

Mr. Jones: So, actually, there will not be anything further on those two since the discussion is that folks will stay in place.

Mr. Hawkins: The only other thing I think there would be some resolutions of appreciation, unless there's anything else from Council or the Administration.

Mr. Uhl: Since we're having so much fun with Code, I anticipate another Code supplement to come forward as it pertains to the Clerk of Council/Finance Director position.

Mr. Anderson: I just want to be clear, Mr. Hawkins mentioned resolutions of appreciation. Is he expecting one moving over to his new position for his role on City Council, or can we just defer that until after his successful four years, whichever you prefer, I just wanted to make sure we're prepared for the meeting.

Mr. Hawkins: No appreciation regarding me.

Mr. Anderson: I appreciate the work you've done, for what it's worth.

Mr. Hawkins: I appreciate that.

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Adjournment

Mr. Hawkins made a motion to adjourn; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McNear
Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Minutes Approved:
Tom Vanover, President of Council

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