



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City Commission Approves New Housing, Parking Garage, and Appointed New City Manager in Sweeping Legislative Session

Realtor: "We are excited and proud of our community leaders"

SPRINGFIELD, OH (Dec. 19, 2018) — Springfield City Commission approved two housing developments, a parking garage project, the appointment of a new city manager, and purchase of a fire truck in a sweeping legislative session in its final meeting of 2018, signaling further progress in its commitment to downtown growth, new housing, and continued economic development.

"We are proud of what we've been able to accomplish in 2018 for the people of Springfield, and we're committed to more hard work in the years to come," said Mayor Warren Copeland.

Key votes in the Dec. 18 meeting include:

- Introduced legislation to approve an additional \$250,000 for demolition of abandoned houses
- Approved \$50,000 for design and construction concepts for a downtown parking garage
- Approved tax increment financing incentive districts for the development of 231 new homes for the Bridgewater Subdivision off of Tuttle Road
- Approved \$565,428 for a 2019 Sutphen Heavy Rescue Custom Fire Engine
- Approved a redevelopment agreement with Charles V. Simms Development Corporation for the construction of 34 townhomes downtown
- Appointed Bryan L. Heck as City Manager beginning Feb. 1, 2019

"This was a night to celebrate," said City Manager Jim Bodenmiller. "Springfield is moving forward in a positive direction, and we couldn't be more excited about what this means for the future of our city."

The Bridgewater Subdivision, formerly Hunter's Grove, is the first 200+ unit significant housing subdivision in recent times.

"We, as realtors in our community, are the boots on the ground, and we recognize the need for improvement in current housing conditions," said Susan Burk, president of the Springfield Board of Realtors. "We have great things happening in our community...in order to attract the right developers and investors willing to take the risk, we have to employ tools like the tax increment financing (TIF). Other communities like Beavercreek have grown and flourished because of a TIF. We are excited and proud of our community leaders that recognize the need for growth and change."

The townhome development will be the first owner-occupied development of its kind downtown.

“We believe these developments are just the beginning,” said Bodenmiller. “It’s an exciting time for Springfield. New housing is a major step forward in significant economic development. With new housing come many other opportunities in the form of retail businesses, restaurants, and more.”

Bryan Heck was selected by City Commission as the next City Manager upon Bodenmiller’s retirement in January of 2019. Bodenmiller has been employed with the City of Springfield more than 30 years, the final 10 of which as City Manager.

Heck is currently the Deputy City Manager and will advance to his new role Feb. 1.

“I want to thank the Commission for putting their faith and trust in me to continue moving this city forward in the role as city manager and I’m excited for the opportunity,” said Heck. “The best part of this is working with a dedicated, hardworking staff that is committed to making Springfield a great place to live, work and play. I’m excited for the challenges and the opportunities that come with it.”