

# **CITY COMMISSION**

## **WORK SESSION MINUTES**

July 16, 2019

6:45 p.m.

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**PRESENT:** Commissioners Chilton, Estrop, O'Neill, Rue and President Copeland. City Manager Heck.

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### **HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS:**

Topics discussed at the work session held on Tuesday, July 16, 2019, were:

1. Mr. Rob Alexander and Mr. Rick Valentine of the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) reviewed the various programs available from the SBDC. Mr. Alexander thanked the city for its long-time support. SBDC offers services to those who wish to start a business and for those who already own a business. The Springfield Financial Group is part of the SBDC and can provide small loans. SBDC offers 24 different types of business coaching services which is 100 percent free to clients from 11 experienced business coaches. SBDC has funding for 166 hours of coaching per month.

Mr. Valentine spoke on loan programs available from SBDC with examples of local businesses who have thrived with help from SBDC. There were \$607,811 loaned in the past year which was 380% above the yearly average. SBDC helped clients access \$2.6 million in new commercial loans in the past 12 months.

Mrs. Chilton asked about SBDC's location and availability of classes. Mr. Alexander explained the office is located in Clark State's Brinkman Center, 76 South Limestone Street and can be reached at 937-322-7821 or at [www.sbdc.com](http://www.sbdc.com). Most classes have been replaced with one-on-one counseling sessions to provide the best support for clients.

Dr. Estrop indicated he had referred many people to SBDC for support and stated that he hoped Springfield would become a hub for entrepreneurs.

Mr. Rue congratulated Mr. Alexander and Mr. Valentine on the organization's success and praised their marketing and website.

2. Mr. Josh Cross of Ohio Edison spoke to Commissioners on procedures for citizens to report street light outages. Their website, [www.firstenergycorp.com](http://www.firstenergycorp.com) contains quick links to make reports and options

to search for area outages. The outage reporting page has a form to complete with as much detail as possible to identify the light that requires repair. Repair requests may also be reported by fax number at 1-877-289-3674 and by telephone at 1-888-544-4877.

Mr. Cross reminded Commissioners that repairs are made during daytime hours within a 72-hour repair window unless parts are required and during major storms where technicians are needed elsewhere.

Dr. Estrop reminded citizens that street lights are reported to Ohio Edison and traffic lights are reports to the City's Service Department.

Mr. O'Neill stated citizens may also call the City Manager's Office or the Engineering Department for assistance.

Dr. Estrop invited Mr. Cross to join the city's efforts in exploring alternative energy sources per the City Commission's adopted goals.

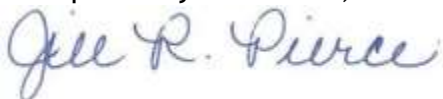
3. On motion of Dr. Estrop, seconded by Mrs. Chilton, the meeting adjourned.

Yeas, Mrs. Chilton, Dr. Estrop, Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Rue and Mr. Copeland.

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

Adj. 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jill R. Pierce

Clerk of the City Commission