

**The City of Springfield, Ohio**  
**City Commission Organizational Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, January 2, 2020 – 8:00 p.m.**  
**City Hall Forum**

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The 2020 Organizational Meeting was called to order by Assistant Mayor and Acting President Chilton. Roll call was answered by Mr. Copeland, Dr. Estrop, Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Rue, and Mrs. Chilton.

The invocation was offered by Pastor Adam Banks. Mrs. Chilton then led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**BONDS**

City Clerk Pierce presented the bonds for the newly elected Mayor, Warren Copeland, and City Commissioner, Kevin O'Neill, in the amount of \$10,000 and issued by a bonding company regularly accredited to do business in the State of Ohio.

On a motion by Dr. Estrop, seconded by Mr. Rue, the bonds were approved.

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

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

**CREDENTIALS**

Law Director Allen reported that certification was received from the Clark County Board of Elections that, Warren Copeland was duly elected Mayor on November 5, 2019, and Kevin O'Neill was also duly elected City Commissioner on November 5, 2019, for full terms in and for The City of Springfield, Ohio, with all terms ending December 31, 2023.

Judge Thomas Trempe administered the oath of office to Warren Copeland as Mayor.

Judge Richard O'Neill administered the oath of office to Kevin O'Neill as City Commissioner.

On a motion by Mr. Rue, seconded by Dr. Estrop, the credentials of Mayor Copeland and Commissioner O'Neill, consisting of bonds, oaths of office, and election certificates be ordered filed with the Director of Finance.

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

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

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At this time, Mayor Copeland took over as President of the City Commission.

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**ELECTION OF ASSISTANT MAYOR**

On a motion by Mr. O'Neill, seconded by Dr. Estrop, Commissioner Chilton was nominated for the office of Assistant Mayor of the City with closed nominations and that Commissioner Chilton be appointed by this Commission to serve as Assistant Mayor of the City for a period of two years from this date.

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

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

Judge Richard O'Neill administered the oath of office to Joyce Chilton as Assistant Mayor.

**BOARD AND COMMITTEES**

On a motion by Dr. Estrop, seconded by Mr. Rue, the commissioners were appointed as liaisons to the following boards and committees:

Mrs. Chilton: Board of Building Appeals, City Planning Board, Civil Service Commission, Mediation Board and Work Plus Board.  
Mr. Copeland: Council of Neighborhood Associations, Human Relations Board, Metropolitan Housing Authority, and Neighborhood Housing Partnership Board.  
Dr. Estrop: Community beautifications programs, Community Grant Advisory Board, Municipal Airport Advisory Board, and Solid Waste Policy Committee.  
Mr. O'Neill: Board of Zoning Appeals, Clark County Combined Health District, Criminal Justice Council, and National Trail Parks and Recreation District Board of Trustees.  
Mr. Rue: Clark County Children & Family First Council, Clark County Fairgrounds Board, Convention Facilities Authority, Historic Landmarks Commission, and military and veterans groups.

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

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

**EMERGENCY ORDINANCES**

The following emergency legislation was presented for the first time:

**1-20**      **Emergency Ordinance No. 20-1:**    Confirming appointments of City Commissioners to the Community Improvement Corporation (Copeland and Estrop), Convention and Visitors Bureau (Chilton and Rue), Tax Incentive Review Council (O'Neill), Clark County Land Reutilization Corporation Board (Chilton), and Joint Economic Development District Board of Directors (Estrop, O'Neill, and Rue); asserting that they serve in their official capacity; and declaring an emergency.

On motion of Mrs. Chilton, seconded by Mr. Rue, the ordinance passed.

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

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

**2-20**      **Emergency Ordinance No. 20-2:**    Confirming appointments of City Commissioners (Chilton and Rue) and their alternate members (Bryan Heck and Chris Moore) to the Clark County-Springfield Transportation Coordinating Committee; asserting that they serve in their official capacity; and declaring an emergency.

On motion of Dr. Estrop, seconded by Mr. Rue, the ordinance passed.

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

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

**3-20**      **Emergency Ordinance No. 20-3:**    Appointing David Estrop, James Wills, Stephen Thompson, and Jeremy Leist to the Keep Clark County Beautiful Advisory Board; asserting that they serve in their official capacity; and declaring an emergency.

On motion of Dr. Estrop, seconded by Mr. Rue, the ordinance passed.

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

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

**1-19**      **Emergency Ordinance No. 20-4:**    Confirming and approving the transfer of monies among various funds and declaring an emergency.

On motion of Mr. Rue, seconded by Mrs. Chilton, the ordinance passed.

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

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

**4-20**      **Emergency Ordinance No. 20-5:**    Authorizing a contribution to Issue Media Group ("IMG") in the amount of \$15,000.00 per year for three consecutive years, for a total contribution of \$45,000.00, toward the City of Springfield Coalition Sponsorship ("the Coalition"), which is an arrangement by the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce for a digital publication identifying and capturing the story of talent, investment, innovation and emerging assets that are shaping Springfield's future, and declaring an emergency.

On motion of Mr. Rue, seconded by Dr. Estrop, the ordinance passed.

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

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

#### Discussion

Mrs. Chilton asked City Manager Heck to explain more about this project. Mr. Heck stated the Issue Media Group will present a weekly online magazine-style publication focusing on positive stories happening in the Springfield area. A collaboration of local private and public entities will fund the project. Mrs. Chilton asked if there would be a cost for citizens, and Mr. Heck stated that it will be free to citizens.

Dr. Estrop commented on the partnership of local organizations to fund the project, the organization who will work with staff to present a positive message, and the importance of Springfield telling its own story with feedback from citizens.

Mr. Rue stated his support of the project as both a commissioner and a private stakeholder. Mr. Rue indicated the company currently works with 20 cities and continues to grow.

Mr. Copeland spoke on the ability to reach many people as opposed to the shrinking capacity of local newspapers.

**5-20**      **Emergency Ordinance No. 20-6:**    Authorizing an expenditure in an amount not to exceed \$85,109.84 to contract with Superior, LLC, a CentralSquare Company fka SunGard Public Sector, Inc. fka HTE, Inc. to provide the City with maintenance services for various computer software applications for the period January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020; confirming and approving maintenance services provided by Superior, LLC, a CentralSquare Company fka SunGard Public Sector, Inc. fka HTE, Inc. under said contract for the period of January 1, 2020 to the passage of this Ordinance, and declaring an emergency.

On motion of Mr. O'Neill, seconded by Mrs. Chilton, the ordinance passed.

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

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

#### Discussion

Mrs. Chilton asked Mr. Heck for additional information on the maintenance services provided. Mr. Heck explained the maintenance is primarily for the financial and utility billing software used by city staff.

### **NEW ITEM ON THE AGENDA - EMERGENCY ORDINANCE**

The following emergency legislation was added to the agenda and presented for the first time:

**6-20**      **Emergency Ordinance No. 20-7:**    Authorizing the City Manager to enter into an Agreement by and between The City of Springfield, Ohio and the Fraternal Order of Police, Ohio Labor Council, Inc. (Command Officers Gold Unit); directing the implementation and performance of the provisions of such agreement; and declaring an emergency therein.

On motion of Dr. Estrop, seconded by Mr. Rue, the ordinance passed.

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

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

Discussion

Mr. O'Neill thanked the citizens for voting for the 2017 tax levy increase which allowed the city to increase the wages for police officers and other staff. Mr. O'Neill also thanked Police staff for agreeing to the new contract.

Mr. Copeland also thanked citizens for passing the tax levy and explained that increased wages will help retain new and experienced officers.

Dr. Estrop asked Finance Director Beckdahl if the city can afford the increases contained in the new contract. Mr. Beckdahl stated the contract amount was included in the 2020 Budget. Dr. Estrop also thanked the citizens for voting for the levy increase and added the State of Ohio has not restored funding withheld from local municipalities for several years. Dr. Estrop also thanked the Fraternal Order of Police and local officers for agreeing to a new contract.

**COMMISSION COMMENTS**

Mr. O'Neill thanked the audience members for attending the meeting and also thanked his wife, Linda, and his family for their support. He also praised Mrs. Chilton for her good work and continued efforts as Assistant Mayor. Mr. O'Neill also recognized Bryan Heck's efforts as City Manager and his leadership.

Mr. Copeland thanked family and friends who helped during his election campaign especially his wife, Clara. He stated he chose to run for mayor again to provide stability during many changes to the city. Mr. Copeland spoke on housing efforts in Springfield, specifically efforts on the south side.

Mrs. Chilton thanked commissioners for their vote to keep her as Assistant Mayor. She thanked many friends and family for attending the meeting, co-workers at the Family Needs Center, and dedicated her efforts to her late husband, Paul Chilton.

Commissioners thanked Judge O'Neill and Judge Trempe for administering the oaths of office.



There being no further business, on motion of Dr. Estrop, seconded by Mr. Rue, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

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

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

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PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COMMISSION

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CLERK OF THE CITY COMMISSION