

CITY COMMISSION

WORK SESSION MINUTES

February 25, 2020

6:15 p.m.

PRESENT: Commissioners Chilton, Estrop, O'Neill, Rue and President Copeland. City Manager Heck and Project & Emergency Services Manager Hicks.

GUESTS: Springfield Arts Council Youth Arts Ambassadors with Leader Krissy Hartman; Brian Scoggins and Isaiah Mouw of Republic Parking Systems.

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS:

Topics discussed at the work session held on Tuesday, February 25, 2020, were:

1. Students representing the Springfield Arts Council Youth Arts Ambassadors presented their research results entitled "Screen Use Among Local Youth" to the City Commissioners. Data on both negative and positive effects of technology was determined by a survey of local students and their electronic screen use. Their presentation included an interactive poll of electronic device usage for those in attendance. The group also promoted their initiative to unplug from electronic devices on March 6, 2020.

Mr. Rue presented a proclamation to the group proclaiming March 6, 2020, as Day of Unplug in Springfield.

2. Mr. Paul Hicks explained a Request for Proposals was sent out for a downtown parking management plan that would include the new parking garage, surface lots, and street parking. Republic Parking Systems was chosen, and Mr. Hicks introduced Mr. Brian Scoggins and Mr. Isaiah Mouw of Republic Parking.

Mr. Scoggins explained that he and Mr. Mouw are part of the municipal team of Republic that specializes in managing parking for cities. Mr. Mouw listed several reasons why paid parking systems help a downtown area including:

- create turnover and improve availability for short-term parking
- eliminate "cruising" of cars looking for spaces and traffic congestion
- generate revenue that could be put back into the area for improvements

Single-space parking meters accept payment with receipts via coins, credit cards, and a mobile phone app with reminder options. Meters would be handicapped accessible and could be programmed for short-term free parking. On-street parking spots could be set to a higher amount to encourage off-street parking usage. Parking management would use an

ambassador approach to assist customers utilizing the parking rather than strictly an enforcement approach. Employees are not incentivized by parking ticket revenue.

Mrs. Chilton asked if the Republic Parking branding would be easily distinguished from the Republic Waste Collection. Mr. Mouw indicated the parking brand would be developed specifically for Springfield to clearly identify parking locations and staff.

Mrs. Chilton also asked for information to share with citizens on the benefits of having metered parking. Mr. Mouw indicated that meetings with the city leaders and staff will help promote the message to citizens why turnover in prime parking areas helps the downtown businesses.

Mr. O'Neill commented that the discussions for a downtown parking garage centered on providing more parking spaces, not charging for parking. He spoke on parking expenses and length of parking time. Mr. O'Neill stated that he liked that additional money can be added to a metered spot if a patron needed more time. He also commented that perhaps the parking garage would charge fees until it is fully funded.

Mr. Mouw explained the parking plan could include free spaces in certain areas. He also commented that having a plan for the money collected helps with the public's acceptance.

Mr. Hicks reminded commissioners that upon approval of a contract with Republic, they would help the city make the decisions on parking options and pricing.

Mr. Rue stated parking meters would initially upset a portion of the public, but the time is now when \$6 million has been invested in a parking garage. Mr. Rue suggested having notices on the parking meters that indicate what special project the collected fees are funding. He also suggested the parking meters have some period of time where the parking would be free.

Dr. Estrop spoke on the parking plan in Lakewood, Ohio, where there are areas that are free for those who are willing to walk and areas that require payment for those who wish to park closer to certain areas of interest. Dr. Estrop added perhaps the metered areas would stop collecting fees after a certain time or on weekends.

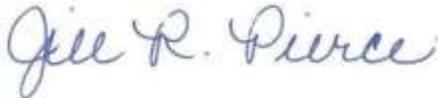
Mr. Heck indicated the commissioners and staff will work with the consultant to determine what areas make the most sense for meters and length of parking time.

Mrs. Chilton asked if Republic staff maintain the actual parking meters, and Mr. Mouw replied they would be responsible for the equipment.

3. Mr. Heck distributed copies of the 2020 City Commission Retreat Agenda. The annual retreat will be held on Tuesday, March 3, and Wednesday, March 4, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the City Service Center.
4. 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. 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jill R. Pierce". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jill R. Pierce
Clerk of the City Commission