

The City of Springfield, Ohio
City Commission Special Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 7, 2020 – 10:00 a.m.
Virtual Meeting via ZOOM Internet Application

In an effort to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus, a special virtual meeting was called to order by President Copeland at 10 a.m. Roll call was answered by Mrs. Chilton, Dr. Estrop, Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Rue, and Mr. Copeland.

The invocation was offered by Mr. Copeland, who then led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

On motion of Mr. Rue, seconded by Mrs. Chilton, members approved the minutes of the March 24, 2020, Legislative Meeting as presented.

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

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

FIRST READINGS—ORDINANCES

The following legislation was read by title only for the first time and requires presentation at a second regular meeting before vote on passage:

100-20 Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract for demolition services with Tony Smith dba Tony Smith Wrecking & Trucking for an amount not to exceed \$600,000.00.

Discussion

Dr. Estrop asked for additional information on this first reading request and a similar request for second reading. Planning, Zoning and Code Administrator Thompson explained the first reading is a new contract for the period of June 2020 through June 2021. The second reading adds funding to the existing contract expiring June 2020.

101-20 Authorizing the City Manager to enter into an LPA Federal Local-LET Project Agreement No. 33222 between the City and the Ohio Department of Transportation to provide the City with eligible costs of up to a maximum sum of \$1,544,209.40 for the CLA Yellow Springs Street Reconstruction, Phase 2, PID No. 109607; authorizing the City Manager, Law Director and Finance Director to do all things they deem necessary to implement said agreement; and authorizing an expenditure up to \$386,052.35 to be used as matching funds in connection with the agreement to be entered into with the Ohio Department of Transportation.

102-20 Consenting to the micro surface of the existing pavement on IR 70 in Clark County from SR 40 to just west of Selma Road, including a portion within the City of Springfield, by the Ohio Department of Transportation (identified as CLA 70-14.00, and further identified by PID No. 109790); providing for the maintenance of the right-of-way; and authorizing the City Manager to enter into agreements with the Director of Transportation of the State of Ohio necessary to complete the project.

Discussion

Mrs. Chilton asked if local funding is required for the Interstate 70 maintenance project. Service Director Moore explained the participatory agreement is requested by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for the portion of Interstate 70 within the city limits and there will be no cost to the City for the work done by OOT.

☺☺☺ Next regular City Commission meeting: April 21, 2020. ☹☹☹

SECOND READINGS—ORDINANCES

The following legislation was presented for a second time:

79-20 Ordinance No. 20-99: Authorizing the City Manager to apply for and accept a 2020 Energized Community Grant through the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council ("NOPEC") in an amount up to \$86,100.00 to be used for implementation of energy savings or energy infrastructure measures; authorizing the City Manager to execute a Grant Agreement for the acceptance of said Grant; and authorizing the City Manager, Law Director and the Director of Finance to do all things necessary for the submission of the application and acceptance of the grant and to comply with all relevant local, state and federal legal requirements.

Discussion

Mrs. Chilton stated she has received citizen questions related to the electric aggregation and asked for an explanation of the advantages of joining the aggregation with NOPEC. Finance Director Beckdahl reminded everyone the citizens voted to allow the City to enter an aggregation agreement which allows all electrical accounts in the city to join together using one electric supplier for best pricing. The City changed to NOPEC for the aggregation when the First Energy contract was expiring and their organization was facing potential financial hardship. Citizens may opt-out of the agreement if they choose. Advantages of membership in the aggregation include the convenience of not shopping for their own electric supplier and pricing. Mr. Beckdahl added advantages for the entire city is community-oriented services such as the subject grant award and savings returned to the City as an organization.

Mr. Copeland added that Ohio Edison continues to service the electrical lines and NOPEC manages the payment of the electric service at a lower cost to consumers.

Mr. O'Neill stated the change to NOPEC occurred at the end of the City's contract with First Energy, and NOPEC was chosen as the best option for community involvement. Mr. O'Neill asked when the NOPEC contract

expires, and Mr. Beckdahl indicated there is at least one more renewal option. Mr. O'Neill also asked if a new contract with NOPEC required competitive bidding, and Mr. Beckdahl stated staff could present a new contract for the City Commission's approval with no bidding requirement.

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

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

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

256-19 Ordinance No. 20-100: Amending Ordinance No. 91-90, passed March 12, 1991, and commonly known as the Codified Ordinances of The City of Springfield, Ohio, by repealing and replacing Section 1213.07(k) within Chapter 1213 entitled Plan Approval Procedures relating to the adopted Subdivision Regulations.

On motion of Dr. Estrop, seconded by Mrs. Chilton, the ordinance passed.

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

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

108-19 Ordinance No. 20-101: Authorizing the City Manager to enter into Amendment No. 2 to the contract for demolition services with Tony Smith dba Tony Smith Wrecking & Trucking to increase the contract amount by \$220,000.00, for a total amount not to exceed \$620,000.00.

Discussion

Dr. Estrop asked if the proposed services would be used for demolition of houses beyond repair. Mr. Thompson replied affirmatively.

Mr. Rue asked for an update on the Crowell Collier building demolition unrelated to this particular contract. Mr. Thompson explained the demolition is nearing completion and contractor continues to work on debris removal.

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.

81-20 Ordinance No. 20-102: Approving and adopting the Clark County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation 5-Year Plan Update for The City of Springfield, Ohio.

Discussion

Dr. Estrop asked for additional details of the subject plan update. Emergency Services Manager Hicks explained the plan is updated every five years. No new projects were identified in this update, but future situations could be identified and submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for reimbursement. City Manager Heck added staff worked with the local Emergency Management Agency to develop the update.

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.

6-19 Ordinance No. 20-103: Authorizing the City Manager to enter into LPA Agreement No. 33109 - Amendment No. 2 between the City and the Ohio Department of Transportation in connection with the CLA Yellow Springs Street Reconstruction, Phase 1, PID No. 109491 to increase funding limits and revise funding for all phases of the project.

Discussion

Mrs. Chilton asked for additional detail on the street reconstruction project. Mr. Moore explained the area includes Yellow Springs from Main Street to Grand Avenue. One section will begin no earlier than Summer 2022 and the other section will begin no sooner than Summer 2023.

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.

82-20 Ordinance No. 20-104: Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Loan Agreement with Opportunities Industrialization Center of Clark County, Ohio, Inc. ("OIC") in connection with the construction of a new single-family home on Rubsam St. as part of the OIC YouthBuild Program, for an amount not to exceed \$182,300.00 of HOME funding.

Discussion

Mr. O'Neill asked if the proposed loan would be repaid or forgiven over time. Community Development Director Meadows explained the proceeds from the completed home's sale would be used to repay the loan in part and used again for another project. Mr. O'Neill asked for the approximate value of the home, and Mrs. Meadows stated the home would likely sell for \$90,000 to \$100,000. Mrs. Meadows also added that a portion of the repayment value would be used for homebuyer down-payment assistance. Mr. O'Neill spoke on OIC's good program for the participants.

Mr. Copeland added the homeowners in the neighborhood where the new house is planned also benefit from new construction nearby.

Mrs. Chilton asked about at-risk youth safeguards with the project. Mrs. Meadows explained the project is in the loan phase. Youth are not involved at this time but would be when the project begins.

Dr. Estrop spoke on the construction skills learned by students involved.

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.

090-20 **Ordinance No. 20-105:** **Authorizing the acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$30,000.00 from the Springfield Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association to be used for the purchase of a mini-caliber robot from ICOR Technology Inc.**

Discussion

Mr. Copeland thanked the Alumni Association for their generosity.

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.

EMERGENCY ORDINANCES

The following emergency legislation was presented for the first time:

103-20 **Emergency Ordinance No. 20-106:** **Authorizing an expenditure to assist property owners of 307, 311, and 357 N. Bechtle Ave, to connect their properties to an existing, more accessible to maintain water service and to enable the City to abandon the water service taps and 6" water main that are on Broadway.**

On motion of Mrs. Chilton, seconded by Dr. Estrop, the ordinance passed.

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

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

7-20 Mr. Copeland commented that all Ohio cities are dependent on the collection of income tax from working citizens; however, there is a significant number of people not working during the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Copeland stated he would work with the City Manager to monitor spending and to seek reimbursements if available.

Mr. Rue asked if the state would possibly reinstate the Local Government Fund. Mr. Copeland indicated the City may be eligible for federal funds. The City of Columbus is the only Ohio city large enough to qualify for funding currently. Mr. Heck spoke on the CARES Act for funding to states that may generate funding to the local level.

Dr. Estrop asked the City Manager to give an update on city operations during the pandemic. Mr. Heck explained that all departments are working in a modified manner while continuing to provide services. The City's website and Facebook pages are updated frequently with important information.

Dr. Estrop and Mr. Copeland expressed their thanks to the City Manager and the entire staff for their efforts to keep all services operational.

Mr. O'Neill asked about the process for building permits and inspections. Mr. Heck explained new construction inspections are continuing regularly. Building plans can be submitted via the City's website.

Mr. O'Neill asked about income tax filing. Mr. Beckdahl explained local income tax filing and payment deadlines have been extended to July 15 to coincide with the new federal deadline.

Mr. Rue asked about the Police Division maintaining order during this time and the operations of the local jail. Police Chief Graf replied the Police staff had not experienced any issues thus far. The Sheriff's operations at the jail are maintaining medical checks to keep everyone safe. City staff are not going inside the jail.

Mrs. Chilton spoke on young people fighting in the streets and appealed to families to keep their children inside and out of trouble.

59-20 Dr. Estrop asked for an update on a new grocery on the south side of the city. Mr. Heck explained staff meets weekly to discuss ideas and talk with potential developers and investors for the former Kroger site and the South Limestone Street corridor. Staff hopes to have a plan to share soon. Staff is also working with the Clark County Land Bank who plans to take temporary ownership of the building and equipment.

Mr. Copeland stated food distribution is still operational in the former grocery store's parking lot from Second Harvest Food Bank. The Abilities Connection (TAC) continues free shuttle service to grocery stores weekly using the same safety protocols as the City bus service.

MAYORAL PROCLAMATION AND EXECUTIVE ORDER

89-20 Pursuant to Springfield Codified Ordinance 115.03, Mayor Copeland announced to the City Commission that he signed Amendment No. 2 to the Mayoral Proclamation and Executive of March 16, 2020. Amendment No. 2 extends the original termination date to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Springfield. The Director of the Ohio Department of Health's Stay-at-Home Order was extended to May 1, 2020, and our order will follow those guidelines until that order is no longer needed.

Mr. Heck announced citizens may send questions or comments for City Commissioners and staff to the City Clerk at commission@springfieldohio.gov or by telephone at 937-324-7341.

COMMUNICATIONS

87-90 Notification from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control of a request for a new liquor permit from Family Dollar Stores of Ohio Inc. dba Family Dollar 7159, 1014 West Main Street, Springfield, Ohio 45504.

89-20 Notification from the Government Finance Officers Association of the city's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) fiscal year ended 2018 qualifies for GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. Presentation of award will be held at a future date.

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There being no further business, on motion of Dr. Estrop, seconded by Mr. Rue, the meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

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

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

Karan R. Copeland

PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COMMISSION

Jill R. Pierce

CLERK OF THE CITY COMMISSION