

**The City of Springfield, Ohio**  
**City Commission Special Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, April 21, 2020 – 10:00 a.m.**  
**Virtual Meeting via ZOOM Internet Application**

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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 a motion of Dr. Estrop, seconded by Mrs. Chilton, members approved the minutes of the April 7, 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:

**104-20**        **Consenting to the performance of bridge maintenance and rehabilitation on Structure File Number 1205463 within the City of Springfield, by the Ohio Department of Transportation (identified as CLA - SR 72-8.63, and further identified by PID No. 108063); 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.**

**105-20**        **Authorizing the City Manager to enter into an LPA Federal Local-LET Project Agreement No. 37472 between the City and the Ohio Department of Transportation to provide the City with eligible costs of up to a maximum sum of \$77,000.00 for the CLA – Spgfld. N. Burnett/Columbus Project, PID No. 110976; and authorizing the City Manager, Law Director and Finance Director to do all things they deem necessary to implement said agreement.**

**106-20**        **Consenting to the painting of the structural steel on various bridges throughout the district in Clark and Montgomery counties to include Structure File Number 1202944 – CLA-US-68-08.32 and Structure File Number 1202855 – CLA-US-68-08.33 within the City of Springfield, by the Ohio Department of Transportation (identified as D07 BP FY22, and further identified by PID No. 105404); 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.**

**107-20**        **Authorizing the Law Director to approve and settle a claim with Ohio Edison Co. for the expense incurred as a result of damage that occurred to underground facilities near the intersection of High and Center Streets on or about December 13, 2019; and authorizing the Director of Finance to make payment to Ohio Edison Co. in the amount of One Thousand Two Hundred Forty-Eight Dollars and Forty-Five Cents (\$1,248.45) as full settlement as and for said damages.**

**108-20**        **Authorizing the Law Director to approve and settle a claim with Mary Shropshire for the expense incurred as a result of damage that occurred on her property located at 515 E. Harrison St. on or about January 4, 2020; and authorizing the Director of Finance to make payment to Mary Shropshire in the amount of One Thousand Three Hundred Eighty Dollars (\$1,380.00) as full settlement as and for said damages.**

~~~~~ Next City Commission meeting: May 5, 2020. ~~~~~

**SECOND READINGS—ORDINANCES**

The following legislation was presented for a second time:

**100-20**        **Ordinance No. 20-107: 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.**

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

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

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

**101-20**        **Ordinance No. 20-108: 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.**

On a 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.

Discussion

Mrs. Chilton asked for a project description and timeline. Service Director Moore explained the project will be completed in two phases. The first phase will be Yellow Springs Street from Main to Pleasant which will be bid during the summer of 2022. The second phase will be from Pleasant to Grand and bid during the summer of 2023. The project is currently in design phase, and the City's funding portion is \$386,000 with the balance from ODOT.

**102-20 Ordinance No. 20-109: 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.**

On a 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

Mrs. Chilton asked about the project and its funding. City Manager Heck explained the project is at no cost to the City. ODOT requests a signed participatory agreement for the portion of Interstate 70 that is located within the city limits.

Mr. Copeland asked if the project is part of current interstate construction project. Mr. Heck stated the proposed project is separate from the current lane-widening project.

**EMERGENCY ORDINANCES**

The following emergency legislation was presented for the first time:

**25-20 Emergency Ordinance No. 20-110: Confirming purchases and the obtaining of services for the City and providing for payments therefor.**

On a 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.

**14-20 Emergency Ordinance No. 20-111: Providing for Supplemental Appropriations within various funds.**

On a 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

Dr. Estrop asked for additional detail on the requested appropriations. Finance Director Beckdahl explained one item relates to additional interest for a Tax Increment Financing project, one for operating expenses related to the parking garage, and one for additional sanitizing supplies needed at City facilities.

Mr. Copeland asked for the anticipated opening of the parking garage. Mr. Heck explained the contractor submitted a letter of completion on April 17, 2020, subject to final inspection for a certificate of occupancy.

Mrs. Chilton asked when citizens could use the parking garage. Mr. Heck stated the management company will assist staff with opening the garage upon receipt of the certificate of occupancy.

**207-18 Emergency Ordinance No. 20-112: Confirming and approving Change Order No. 2 to the contract between the City and Associated Excavating, Inc. for the Northern Heights Water and Sewer Improvements Project, to increase the contract in an amount not to exceed \$5,462.00, for a total amount not to exceed \$1,048,400.25; and authorizing the City Manager to execute said Change Order No. 2.**

On a 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.

**8-19 Emergency Ordinance No. 20-113: Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Strawser Construction Inc. for the CLA Trail Maintenance, Phase 2 Project, PID No. 109480, for an amount not to exceed \$171,944.60.**

Discussion

Mr. Rue asked for additional information, and Mr. Heck stated the entire trail system excluding a section of the Little Miami Bike Trail would receive slurry seal treatment. Mr. Heck added the project would be the first major maintenance project for the trails.

Upon question of Mrs. Chilton, Mr. Moore further explained the maintenance would begin very soon before the vegetation already cut begins to grow back. The funding is available and work should start late May to early June.

Mr. O'Neill asking about the funding for the project. Mr. Moore stated \$137,000 comes from ODOT and \$34,000 from the City's Permanent Improvement Fund. Mr. Moore added the project should not be disruptive to trail users and expected to be completed quickly.

On a 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.

**109-20** **Emergency Ordinance No. 20-114:** **Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with The Shelly Company for the 2020 PI Paving Project for an amount not to exceed \$1,932,457.93.**

Discussion

Dr. Estrop stated the neighborhood street paving project is part of the City's levy commitment. Mr. Heck concurred and added the Broadway Street Reconstruction Project is also part of the neighborhood streets program totaling nearly \$3 million for local street improvements in 2020.

Mr. Moore listed the streets to be paved in part or whole in 2020: Bill Edwards Drive, Fostoria Street, Maplewood Avenue, Florence Street, Linden Avenue, Oakwood Place, and Euclid Avenue. Sewer projects are also planned prior to paving for Bill Edwards Drive and Oakwood Place.

Mr. Heck also updated commissioners on the southeast neighborhood paving project that began in 2019 but was halted when Columbia Gas was unable to complete their work. Columbia Gas reimbursed the City for temporary pavement put down for the streets. The project is scheduled for completion in 2021. Dr. Estrop asked about the temporary pavement's condition in the area. Mr. Moore stated the pavement is holding up well thanks to a mild winter and would be monitored until permanently replaced.

Mr. Rue asked if the list of streets planned for paving would be available to share with citizens. Mr. Heck stated a press release would be available with a map including the Broadway Street project and the continuing Belmont Avenue project.

Mrs. Chilton asked if Columbia Gas would hold neighborhood meetings related to their projects. Mr. Heck stated Columbia Gas cannot hold public meetings at this time, but they are sending out information to keep citizens updated.

On a 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.

**110-20** **Emergency Ordinance No. 20-115:** **Confirming and approving adoption of a revised Citizen Participation Plan.**

Discussion

Mr. Heck asked Community Development Director Meadows to explain the revised Citizen Participation Plan and the following ordinance pertaining to the amended Consolidated Plan and Action Plan. Mrs. Meadows explained the Department of Housing and Urban Development authorized local governments to conduct a shortened five-day public comment period related to funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). Staff amended the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and the 2020 Action Plan to include funding from the CARES Act, and the comment period ended. The one comment received will be included in the plan's narrative. Mrs. Meadows reported the amendment includes \$1.6 million in Community Development Block Grant funds and \$560,000 in Emergency Solutions Grant funds for COVID-19-related activities. Mrs. Meadows also stated a second amendment will be required later to address regulations not completely established for the new funding.

On a 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.

**97-20** **Emergency Ordinance No. 20-116:** **Amending Ordinance No. 20-98 which authorized the submission the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and 2020 Action Plan of The City of Springfield, Ohio to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to modify the Plans to include funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act"); authorizing the City Manager, Finance Director, Law Director and Community Development Director to do all things they deem necessary to implement, operate and administer the City's Community Development Block Grant Program, Emergency Solutions Grant Program, HOME Program, Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus Program ("CDBG-CV") and Emergency Solutions Grant Coronavirus ("ESG-CV") Program.**

Discussion

Discussion of this item was included with Item #110-20 above.

On a 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.

**NEW ITEM ON THE AGENDA – EMERGENCY ORDINANCE**

**111-20** **Emergency Ordinance No. 20-117:** **Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Purchase Agreement for Real Estate for the purchase of certain real property located at 1841 Clifton Avenue from Park Hills Sentre, LTD for an amount not to exceed \$88,000.00; authorizing the City Manager, Law Director and the Director of Finance to perform all acts and execute all documents they consider necessary to fulfill the City's obligations under said Purchase Agreement and to comply with all relevant local, state and federal legal requirements; and declaring an emergency therein.**

Discussion

Dr. Estrop asked for additional detail on the subject property purchase. Mr. Heck explained the property is just south of the former Kroger store on South Limestone Street and used as a furniture repair shop. Staff worked to purchase the property related to redevelopment of the former Kroger property.

Assistant City Manager and Director of Economic Development Franzen further detailed staff's efforts to work with developers, investors, stakeholders, and the Chamber of Commerce to create a redevelopment strategy of the former Kroger property and South Limestone Street corridor. Staff is using current best practices to meet via telephone and video conferences to have a plan available by mid-summer.

Dr. Estrop stated redevelopment of this property is an essential step forward to address the food desert in the area. Mr. Copeland and Mr. Heck agreed.

Mrs. Chilton asked if focus groups were continuing to meet by video conferences. Mr. Heck stated no meetings had been held recently as staff determines the best way to continue. Mrs. Chilton noted the need for citizen participation options for those without access to the Internet or video methods.

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

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

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

**LIQUOR PERMIT**

**78-20** Per notification from the Ohio Department of Liquor Control of a request to transfer a liquor permit from SDYA LLC, dba Main Stop Foodmart, 637 W. Main Street, Springfield, Ohio 45504 to Deza Investments LLC, 637 W. Main Street, Springfield, Ohio 45504, the City Manager recommends that a hearing request be filed to address concerns pertaining to this request.

Discussion

Mr. O'Neill spoke on being careful not to file an objection on liquor permits for issues that can be addressed locally such as conditional use permits and zoning issues. Mr. Heck stated the subject property owner has padlocked the property preventing the Fire Division from making a safety inspection. If the property owner allows the inspection, staff could withdraw the proposed hearing request. Mr. Heck also stated the Law Director is looking at new review procedures to not cause undue delays for liquor permit applicants.

Mrs. Chilton asked about the hours of operation. Mr. Heck stated that he would get the information on permitted hours.

On a motion of Mrs. Chilton, seconded by Dr. Estrop, a hearing will be requested.

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

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

**COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

**89-20** Mr. Heck updated commissioners on the various departments and services operating during the COVID-19 pandemic. City Hall and other buildings are still closed to the public, but services continue. Mr. Heck thanked the staff of the Information Technology Division for enabling many staff members to work from home. Staff is working on a strategy to reopen buildings to serve the public while protecting the safety of everyone.

Mr. Copeland asked Mr. Beckdahl for a financial update considering other cities like Cincinnati are cutting services and staff. Mr. Beckdahl stated the City was fortunate with passage of the 0.4 percent income tax levy in 2017. The commitment of rebuilding the "rainy day fund" will be helpful going forward during this time. Staff has identified approximately \$1 million in permanent improvement purchases to defer. Purchases will be closely monitored and open positions not deemed critical will remain unfilled during this time. Staff is also looking at relief options from the Federal Emergency Management Association and Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation. The City's unencumbered cash balance is approximately \$15 million.

Mr. Copeland asked about reductions in revenue. Mr. Beckdahl stated the current reduction is at approximately 12 percent, and revenue will likely continue to decrease although income tax withholdings were better than expected. Many employers associated with automotive manufacturing are shut down, but many larger employers such as government offices and the hospital are continuing to work. The results of a business survey conducted by the City Manager's Office should be available soon to determine which employers are continuing to work.

Dr. Estrop asked if any furloughs or lay-offs are anticipated, and Mr. Beckdahl stated none are planned. Dr. Estrop thanked all city employees for keeping the services running in a safe manner. Mr. Beckdahl stated staff will adjust as things change, and Dr. Estrop thanked citizens for the tax levy increase to help during this time.

Mr. Heck spoke on larger cities who are impacted by the loss of income related large event venues and tourism such as major league baseball and concerts. Counties are losing casino-related income, but the city's income tax revenue continues.


Mr. Copeland spoke on the mayors of Ohio working together to keep track of available help to cities. Mr. Copeland also stated that he has written to local congressmen about funding.

NOTE: Mr. Rue left the meeting just prior to adjournment.

There being no further business, on a motion of Dr. Estrop, seconded by Mrs. Chilton, the meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

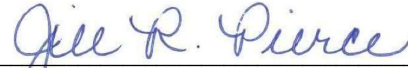
Yeas, Mrs. Chilton, Dr. Estrop, Mr. O'Neill, and Mr. Copeland.

Yeas 4, Nays 0.



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PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COMMISSION



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CLERK OF THE CITY COMMISSION