

**The City of Springfield, Ohio**  
**City Commission Special Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, May 19, 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 10:00 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 May 5, 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:

**114-20 Authorizing the issuance of a purchase order for the purchase of two Stainless Steel Dump Bodies from Kaffenbarger Truck Equipment for an amount not to exceed \$182,890.00.**

Discussion

Dr. Estrop asked for confirmation that the City could afford to make the requested purchase at this time. City Manager Heck explained the related cab and chassis was approved for purchase in February, and the dump bodies are a necessary expense. Finance Director Beckdahl also stated the purchase was budgeted this year from the Permanent Improvement.

**261-19 Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Shelter Plus Care 2 Grant Agreement Amendment (Grant #OH0295L5E071810) with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to shift the grant from project-based vouchers at the St. Vincent DePaul house to tenant-based vouchers which allow for city-wide unit selection; and authorizing the City Manager and the Director of Finance to perform all acts and execute all documents they consider necessary to fulfill the City's obligations under said grant agreement amendment and to comply with all relevant local, state and federal legal requirements.**

Discussion

Mrs. Chilton asked for an explanation of tenant-based vouchers versus project-based vouchers. Community Development Director Meadows explained rent assistance is paid directly to a tenant with tenant-based vouchers instead of directly to our housing partner St. Vincent DePaul.

☺☺☺ Next City Commission meeting: June 2, 2020. ☹☹☹

**HELD—ORDINANCES**

The following legislation was published on the agenda but held for a later date at the request of the applicants' representative:

**58-20 Amending the Zoning Map of Springfield, Ohio by rezoning 1.22 acres, being Parcel No. 3400600005427031, from DMC, Downtown Medical Campus UPOD to CN-2, Neighborhood Commercial District UPOD.**

**113-20 Adopting a Southwest Downtown Urban Renewal Plan Amendment #5**

**SECOND READINGS—ORDINANCES**

The following legislation was presented for a second time:

**98-20 Ordinance No. 20-125: Approving an amendment to the existing CC-2A Shopping Center Plan located in the area of Bechtle Avenue and Saint Paris Connector to modify the designated green space and commercial use space in Parcel Nos. 3300600006100019 and 3300600006100024.**

Discussion

Mr. O'Neill stated this commercial project has been ongoing for 20 years and he would prefer the applicant would have a tenant planned for the location before commission approves an amendment. The landscaping has not been properly installed to protect the neighboring properties. Mr. O'Neill commented the developer is asking for approval of landscaping changes and setbacks with no tenant announced.

Mr. Copeland agreed with Mr. O'Neill's comments and stated additional changes would require further consideration and approval from the City Commission.

Mr. Rue stated his concerns for noise, the unknown use of the property, and the need for a solid plan for actual development of the property.

Dr. Estrop agreed with the previous comments and commented that the landscaping area needs to be done properly. Dr. Estrop asked about the authority to enforce the planting area is properly maintained.

Mr. Heck stated a maintenance agreement was originally established with the City to fund the planting area's maintenance. The developer currently has their maintenance set up with a contractor. Code Enforcement could be used to enforce maintenance of the area as needed. Mr. Heck reminded commissioners approval of the requested amendment would require the developer to return to amend two easements related to the project. Stricter language may be included in the easements regarding landscaping and setbacks.

Mrs. Chilton commented on the requested swap of developable property and green space property. She noted the adjoining property owner seemed agreeable with the green space area at the previous public hearing. Mr. Heck stated developer planned to change the developable property behind the Hobby Lobby store to green space with no development. Mrs. Chilton added that she did not want to see the neighbors inconvenienced, and Mr. Heck stated the Zoning Code has lighting requirements to protect neighboring properties.

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

Yeas, Mrs. Chilton, Dr. Estrop, Mr. Rue, and Mr. Copeland. Nays, Mr. O'Neill. Yeas 4, Nays 1.

**99-20 Ordinance No. 20-126: Vacating the first alley east of Woodlawn Avenue from Bill Edwards Drive north to the intersecting east-west alley.**

Discussion

Mr. O'Neill asked if utility easements would require the property owner to leave the alley open for access following vacation. Planning, Zoning and Code Administrator Thompson stated the owner would have to allow utility companies access to facilities in the alley if necessary, but the alley could be closed to the public.

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.

**126-19 Ordinance No. 20-127: Authorizing the exercise of the City's option to renew the contract with Carmeuse Lime & Stone, Inc. for the purchase of quicklime for use by the City's Water Treatment Plant, for an amount not to exceed \$774,800.00**

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.

**50-20 Ordinance No. 20-128: Confirming and approving Change Order No. 1 to the contract between the City and Sterling Quality Concrete, LLC for the 2020 Sidewalk, Curb and Gutter Program, to decrease the contract in an amount not to exceed \$270,627.26, for a total amount not to exceed \$234,725.94; and authorizing the City Manager to execute said Change Order No. 1.**

Discussion

Dr. Estrop asked for additional information on the decreased change order amount. Mr. Heck explained citizens would not be required to replace sidewalks this year in the areas related to the Neighborhood Street Program, but curb and gutter work would be completed at the City's expense.

Upon question from Mrs. Chilton, Mr. Heck clarified no sidewalks would be replaced as part of the program in 2020 and citizens would not be billed. However, a complaint regarding damaged sidewalks could be assessed separately.

Mr. Rue commented the City is financially able to pay for the curb and gutter work because of conservative measures in spending and working to build the Rainy Day Fund following the income tax levy increase voted by the citizens. Mr. Beckdahl stated the City can absorb the cost of the curb and gutter without sidewalk replacement resulting in a reduced cost. Mr. Beckdahl stated staff will continue to be conservative with expenses and agreed the tax levy increase helped rebuild the fund.

Mr. O'Neill asked what measurement will be used to resume normal processes of charging for sidewalk work in the future. Mr. Beckdahl stated that a benchmark to return to normal would be difficult to determine at this time. Mr. Heck commented that it would be fair to reevaluate the process next year at the time when notices would normally be sent out.

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.

**EMERGENCY ORDINANCES**

The following emergency legislation was presented for the first time:

**25-20 Emergency Ordinance No. 20-129: Confirming purchases and the obtaining of services for the City and providing for payments therefor, and declaring an emergency therein.**

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.

**139-18** Emergency Ordinance No. 20-130: Authorizing the City to retain membership in The Ohio Benefits Cooperative, Inc. ("OBC") regional council of governments, to participate in its OBC Medical Purchasing Cooperative and authorizing the City Manager, Law Director, Director of Finance and Personnel Director to do all things necessary for compliance with OBC By-Laws and the Jefferson Health Plan Agreement ("JHP"), all to provide medical and prescription drug coverage benefits for the City's employees; authorizing expenditures necessary to fulfill the City's obligations under the said By-Laws and JHP agreement, and declaring an emergency therein.

On a motion of Dr. Estrop, 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.

**115-20** Emergency Ordinance No. 20-131: Authorizing the City Manager to apply for and accept, if awarded, a 2020-2021 Selective Traffic Enforcement Program Grant in an amount up to \$17,654.08 and a 2020-2021 Impaired Driving Enforcement Program Grant in an amount up to \$24,231.12, from the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Governor's Highway Safety Office to reimburse salaries and certain fringe benefits of officers assigned to special overtime projects; authorizing the City Manager, Finance Director, Law Director and Chief of Police to perform all acts and execute all documents they consider necessary to fulfill the City's obligations under said grants and to comply with all relevant local, state and federal legal requirements, and declaring an emergency therein.

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.

**116-20** Emergency Ordinance No. 20-132: Authorizing the City Manager to apply for and enter into an agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation for aid in the financing of operating assistance projects pursuant to the Urban Transit Program in the amount of \$193,924.00; authorizing the City Manager and the Director of Finance to perform all acts and execute all documents they consider necessary to fulfill the City's obligations under said grant application and corresponding agreement and to comply with all relevant local, state and federal legal requirements and to provide assurances and additional information as required by the Ohio Department of Transportation, and declaring an emergency therein.

#### Discussion

Mrs. Chilton thanked the bus company staff for the excellent work in keeping the bus operations running during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On a motion of Dr. Estrop, 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.

**117-20** Emergency Ordinance No. 20-133: Authorizing the City Manager to apply for and enter into an agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation pursuant to the FY2021 Ohio Transit Partnership Program (OTP2) Grant in the amount of \$331,000.00 for the purchase of five medium-duty buses, two support vehicles and necessary equipment for the Springfield City Area Transit Maintenance Facility; authorizing the City Manager and the Director of Finance to perform all acts and execute all documents they consider necessary to fulfill the City's obligations under said grant application and corresponding agreement and to comply with all relevant local, state and federal legal requirements and to provide assurances and additional information as required by the Ohio Department of Transportation, and declaring an emergency therein.

#### Discussion

Mr. Copeland commented the impact of reduced gasoline prices and gas tax revenue will likely result in less assistance from the State.

Mr. O'Neill commented on the State's large Rainy Day Fund, and Mr. Copeland responded that the schools may be the first priority for assistance.

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.

**155-19** Emergency Ordinance No. 20-134: Authorizing the issuance of a purchase order for the renewal purchase of 525 G-Suite Business Licenses and support from Onix Networking Corp. for an amount not to exceed \$68,171.25, and declaring an emergency therein.

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.

### COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

**89-20** Dr. Estrop asked the Finance Director and City Manager to update the City Commission and the public on city services during the State of Emergency and the City's financial situation.

Mr. Beckdahl explained the City's finances were holding steady at this point but stated income tax

revenues and other revenues have dropped somewhat dramatically due to many closures. Revenues lag the activity of the State, so revenues will likely continue to drop mid-year. Staff has been proactive to cut expenses, will only fill essential positions, and have imposed reduced spending limits with City Manager and Finance Director approval.

Dr. Estrop commented that many larger cities are suffering more at this point. Mr. Beckdahl agreed and stated that reduced revenues may continue to drop through the summer.

Mr. Copeland commented on larger cities who have lost revenue from the gambling and casinos. Mr. Heck commented the cities with casinos have lost both income tax from the employees as well as the taxes from the State. Larger cities also rely on convention centers and sports venues for revenue. Mr. Heck also added staff has cut \$1.1 million from the City's Permanent Improvement expenses so far and may cut others later in the year depending upon revenue.

Mr. Heck stated there were no employees in quarantine. The first floor of City Hall opened to the public for access to Income Tax and Utility Billing services on a limited basis beginning May 11 and operations were going well. Staff is working on a plan to schedule appointments for income tax assistance. Mr. Heck thanked Service crews along with Police and Fire assistance during a recent rain event that resulted in several high-water situations. Mr. Copeland and Dr. Estrop both asked citizens to help keep storm drains clear of grass and debris.

Dr. Estrop thanked all staff for their continued work and efforts.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

**55-20** Minutes of the March 9, 2020, meeting of the National Trail Parks and Recreation District Board.

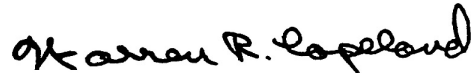
**55-20** Minutes of the April 13, 2020, meeting of the National Trail Parks and Recreation District Board.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

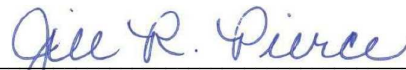
There being no further business, on a motion of Dr. Estrop, seconded by Mrs. Chilton, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

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

Yeas 5, Nays 0.



PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COMMISSION



CLERK OF THE CITY COMMISSION