

The City of Springfield, Ohio
City Commission Special Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 2, 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 19, 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:

160-19 An ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of Notes in the aggregate principal amount of \$3,396,360, in anticipation of the issuance of Bonds, for the purpose of paying the costs of constructing and equipping a new parking garage and improving the site therefor, together with all necessary appurtenances thereto.

Discussion

Mr. Copeland asked Finance Director Beckdahl to explain the three ordinances pertaining to the sale of Notes. Mr. Beckdahl described the three bond anticipation notes as refunders for bonds issued in previous years. The parking garage bond is for the City's funding share of the new parking garage. The sale of notes allows staff to determine how to best finance the final expenses. The two ordinances pertaining to sewer and water upgrades (Items 176-19 and 175-19) are for the Northern Heights sewer and water replacement project.

Upon question from Mrs. Chilton, Service Director Moore explained the Northern Heights project is located in the area of North Limestone Street, McCreight Avenue, and Sherman Avenue. Mr. Heck added the water and sewer work will be completed ahead of the planned repaving in 2022.

176-19 Providing for the issuance of Notes in the maximum principal amount of \$167,280, in anticipation of the issuance of Bonds, for the purpose of paying the costs of improving the municipal sewer system, including replacing sanitary sewer lines, together with all necessary appurtenances thereto.

175-19 Providing for the issuance of Notes in the maximum principal amount of \$402,900, in anticipation of the issuance of Bonds, for the purpose of paying the costs of improving the municipal water system, including replacing water lines, together with all necessary appurtenances thereto.

169-16 Authorizing the City Manager to enter into Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement with Woolpert, Inc., for Master Planning Services at the Springfield-Beckley Municipal Airport, to extend the Agreement to December 31, 2020.

118-20 Authorizing the City Manager to enter into an Agreement with Clark State Community College to provide supplemental police services; authorizing the City Manager, Director of Finance, Law Director and Chief of Police to do all things necessary and execute all documents they deem necessary to implement the said Agreement and to comply with all relevant local, state and federal legal requirements.

☞☞☞ Next City Commission meeting: June 16, 2020. ☞☞☞

SECOND READINGS—ORDINANCES

The following legislation was presented for a second time:

58-20 **Ordinance No. 20-135:** 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.

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.

114-20 **Ordinance No. 20-136:** 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

Mrs. Chilton commented and Mr. Beckdahl confirmed the requested dump bodies were for trucks already purchased.

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.

261-19 Ordinance No. 20-137: 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

Mr. O'Neill asked if rental units related to this program are inspected. Community Development Director Meadows indicated inspections are always completed by the public housing authority when federal housing dollars are used. Mrs. Meadows further explained the proposed amendment changes the rental vouchers to follow the tenant to different rental units rather than staying with the rental property.

Dr. Estrop asked if the amendment makes additional housing units available. Mrs. Meadows stated the subject agreement is for the four vouchers only allowing the tenant to choose their own location. Staff is working on other programming for emergency solutions and rental assistance.

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.

EMERGENCY ORDINANCES

The following emergency legislation was presented for the first time:

113-20 Emergency Ordinance No. 20-138: Adopting a Southwest Downtown Urban Renewal Plan Amendment #5, and declaring an emergency therein.

Discussion

Dr. Estrop asked for additional details on the proposed amendment. Planning, Zoning and Code Administrator Thompson explained the amendment allows the applicants in the approved rezoning request (Item #58-20) to develop the property as an office building rather than a medical building as detailed in the existing Plan.

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.

103-19 Emergency Ordinance No. 20-139: Authorizing the City Manager to enter into an Addendum to the current Services Agreement with DATAMATX, Inc. for utility bill printing, mailing and electronic bill payment and presentment services for the period of June 11, 2020 through June 10, 2021, for an amount not to exceed \$48,000.00; authorizing an additional expenditure in an amount not to exceed \$147,000.00 to reimburse DATAMATX, Inc. for postage expenses, 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.

181-19 Emergency Ordinance No. 20-140: Authorizing an increased expenditure in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00, for a total expenditure not to exceed \$100,000.00 to obtain certified treatment program services from the Mental Health & Recovery Board of Clark, Greene & Madison Counties, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 4511.191, and declaring an emergency therein.

Discussion

Dr. Estrop and Mrs. Chilton requested additional detail on the treatment program services. Mr. Heck explained the services are used as a diversion program for persons charged with Driving Under the Influence (DUI) in the Clark County Municipal Court. Mr. Heck further explained this item is for additional funding through the contract period ending June 30, 2020. The next item is for the same program for the next contract period of July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021. Municipal Court judges may assign this program as opposed to a jail sentence.

Mr. O'Neill asked if the program funding would be used only for city residents. Mr. Heck explained the Municipal Court hears all traffic cases for the entire county. Law Director Allen added the treatment option may be used in lieu of 72 hours mandatory jail time. Mr. Copeland commented the program is less expensive to administer than for persons serving jail time.

Mr. O'Neill also asked if the funding is collected through fines. Mr. Beckdahl stated the court system's budget includes funding from fines and forfeitures but does not directly allocate programs from such fines and forfeitures.

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.

119-20 Emergency Ordinance No. 20-141: Authorizing an expenditure in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00 to obtain certified treatment program services from the Mental Health & Recovery Board of Clark, Greene & Madison Counties, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 4511.191, 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.

120-20 Emergency Ordinance No. 20-142: Authorizing the City Manager to apply for and accept, if awarded, a FY2020 Bulletproof Vest Partnership Award in an amount up to \$25,907.00 from the Bureau of Justice Assistance; 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 grant 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 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

7-20 Mr. Copeland announced a peace rally originally scheduled for this date at noon had been moved up to the prior weekend.

Mr. O'Neill spoke on the recent press conference discussing the downtown curfew imposed following damage to downtown buildings on Sunday, May 31, 2020. Unable to attend due to a prior commitment, Mr. O'Neill thanked the City Commissioners for their representation at the press conference. Mr. O'Neill also thanked the City Manager, Police Chief, and many Police Officers who responded appropriately and bravely during the activities that followed the peace rally.

Dr. Estrop asked Mr. Heck for an update on the curfew imposed from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. nightly on Monday, June 1, and Tuesday, June 2. Mr. Heck reported five arrests were made on the first day due to citizens not complying with the downtown curfew. Mr. Heck added the damage to several downtown businesses were believed to have been done by people not from Springfield. No arrests were made during that time, but video footage may be used to identify those responsible.

Mr. Rue asked if the curfew would be extended past June 2. Mr. Heck stated that he did not plan to extend the curfew unless activity warrants the need.

89-20 Mrs. Chilton indicated she had asked Police Chief Graf for a comparison of the City's crime rates during the COVID-19 stay-at-home period (mid-March to mid-May) in relation to the same period in 2019. Mr. Heck explained Chief Graf was unable to participate in this meeting to discuss the requested topic and would do so at the next scheduled City Commission meeting. Mr. Heck added that in general some types of assistance call numbers had been lower than last year, but some others had spiked. The Safe Streets Task Force plans to resume during the summer months.

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

Mr. Heck indicated four police officers were in a 14-day quarantine following exposure to a positive case of COVID-19 virus. They may return to work following their own testing at the end of the 14 days. City Hall and other buildings remain closed to the public except for the Income Tax and Utility Billing divisions open with limited hours. The lobby of Fire Station No. 1 recently opened for permits. More staff have returned to work with varying shifts.

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

Mr. Beckdahl explained the City's cash balance was holding steady but year-to-date Income Tax revenue has been reduced by \$1 million and the total General Fund revenue is down by approximately \$1.8 million. The losses have been managed by careful spending including \$1 million removed from planned Permanent Improvement Fund expenditures.

Dr. Estrop asked about the overall revenue reduction, and Mr. Beckdahl estimated the reduction is 10-15 percent. The total loss so far due to the COVID-19 pandemic is \$10.7 million over all major funds.

Mr. Copeland spoke on members of Ohio Mayors Alliance contacting the Ohio House Finance Committee chairs to consider passing legislature to assist local governments with funding.

Dr. Estrop asked if the City would receive a share of federal funding given to the State. Mr. Heck explained the \$1.2 billion in federal money was given to the State, and \$350 million allocated for local governments was approved by the Ohio Senate and awaits a vote in the Ohio House. The funding is needed by local governments for COVID-19 response.

Per Codified Ordinance Section 115.04, Mr. Copeland reported to the City Commission that on June 1, 2020, he signed Amendment No. 3 to the Mayoral Proclamation and Executive Order dated March 16, 2020. The third amendment granted additional support of the Springfield Police Division following violence, disorderly behavior, and destruction of property in downtown Springfield on May 31, 2020.

Mrs. Chilton reminded citizens to be safe, observe social distancing protocols, and follow the recommendations of the Health District during the COVID-19 pandemic.


There being no further business, on a 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.



PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COMMISSION



CLERK OF THE CITY COMMISSION