

The City of Springfield, Ohio
City Commission Special Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 16, 2020 – 2:00 p.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 2:00 p.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 Mr. Rue, members approved the minutes of the June 2, 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:

121-20 Providing for the issuance and sale of Notes in the maximum principal amount of \$97,000, in anticipation of the issuance of Bonds, for the purpose of paying the costs of constructing and equipping improvements at the Springfield Beckley Municipal Airport and providing for all related site improvements, including the construction of new hangars and taxilanes, together with all necessary appurtenances thereto.

122-20 Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Structural Systems Repair Group, LLC for the WTP Concrete Repairs and WWTP Secondary Clarifiers and Effluent Diversion Concrete Repair for an amount not to exceed \$3,704,415.00.

123-20 Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) with the Board of Clark County Commissioners (“County”) for Communication and Dispatch Services.

Discussion

Dr. Estrop asked for additional detail on the proposed MOU. City Manager Heck explained the MOU is the first of three steps of a potential merger with the Clark County Sheriff's Office to have combined emergency dispatch services. A signed MOU by both parties allows the Sheriff's Office to enter contract negotiations with their dispatch staff and establish an advisory board to define the roles and responsibilities of both parties. Two additional steps in the process include negotiations between both parties, and the third step would be an actual contract.

Mr. O'Neill commented this step picks up where previous conversations ended related to fair treatment of both city and county employees. Continued discussions are needed to create a good agreement.

Mr. Rue spoke on safety and money savings provided a good contract is established with continued talks between both organizations.

Mr. Copeland commented staff would work through the issues that are important and proceed while protecting the interests of Springfield and its staff.

Mrs. Chilton asked Mr. Heck to give an overview of the process thus far. Mr. Heck stated previous discussions reached a stalemate in October 2019 regarding the treatment of city dispatchers, specifically supervisors, and dispute resolutions. Conversations resumed in early 2020 but were postponed in light of the pandemic and recently resumed.

~~~~~ Next City Commission meeting: June 30, 2020. ~~~~~

**SECOND READINGS—ORDINANCES**

The following legislation was presented for a second time:

**160-19** A Fiscal Officer's Certificate was presented in connection with the proposed issuance of a Special Obligation Nontax Revenue Note, Series 2020 (the Note) in the maximum principal amount of \$3,396,360, to be issued in anticipation of the issuance of bonds (the Bonds) to pay the cost of constructing and equipping a new parking garage and improving the site therefor, together with all necessary appurtenances thereto, as follows: (1) The estimated life of the Improvements is at least five (5) years. (2) The estimated maximum maturity of the Bonds, calculated in accordance with Section 133.20 of the Ohio Revised Code, is at least thirty (30) years. If notes in anticipation of the Bonds are outstanding later than the last day of December of the fifth year following the year of issuance of the original issue of the notes, the period in excess of those five years shall be deducted from that maximum maturity of the Bonds. (3) The maximum maturity of the Notes is five years, provided that their maximum maturity is one year if the Notes are sold at private sale.

**Ordinance No. 20-143: 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.**

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.

The Fiscal Officer's Certificate was presented June 1, 2020, prior to the commencement of the City Commission meeting and prior to passage of the ordinance.

**176-19** A Fiscal Officer's Certificate was presented in connection with the proposed issuance of notes in the maximum principal amount of \$167,280 (the "Notes"), to be issued in anticipation of the issuance of bonds (the "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 (the "Improvement"), that: (1) The estimated life or period of usefulness of the Improvement is at least five (5) years. (2) The estimated maximum maturity of the Bonds, calculated in accordance with Section 133.20 of the Revised Code, is at least thirty (30) years. If notes in anticipation of the Bonds are outstanding later than the last day of December of the fifth year following the year of issuance of the original issue of the notes, the period in excess of those five years shall be deducted from that maximum maturity of Bonds. (3) The maximum maturity of the Notes is two hundred forty (240) months.

**Ordinance No. 20-144: 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.**

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

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

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

The Fiscal Officer's Certificate was presented June 1, 2020, prior to the commencement of the City Commission meeting and prior to passage of the ordinance.

**175-19** A Fiscal Officer's Certificate was presented in connection with the proposed issuance of notes in the maximum principal amount of \$402,900 (the "Notes"), to be issued in anticipation of the issuance of bonds (the "Bonds") for the purpose of paying the costs of improving the municipal water system, including replacing water lines, together with all necessary appurtenances thereto (the "Improvement"), that: (1) The estimated life or period of usefulness of the Improvement is at least five (5) years. (2) The estimated maximum maturity of the Bonds, calculated in accordance with Section 133.20 of the Revised Code, is at least thirty (30) years. If notes in anticipation of the Bonds are outstanding later than the last day of December of the fifth year following the year of issuance of the original issue of the notes, the period in excess of those five years shall be deducted from that maximum maturity of Bonds. (3) The maximum maturity of the Notes is two hundred forty (240) months.

**Ordinance No. 20-145: 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.**

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

The Fiscal Officer's Certificate was presented June 1, 2020, prior to the commencement of the City Commission meeting and prior to passage of the ordinance.

**169-16** **Ordinance No. 20-146: 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.**

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.

**118-20** **Ordinance No. 20-147: 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.**

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

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

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

## **RESOLUTION**

The following legislation was presented for the first time:

**124-20** **Resolution No. 6084: Approving an alternative method of apportionment of the Local Government Fund of Clark County, Ohio.**

### **Discussion**

Dr. Estrop asked for additional information on the proposed resolution. Mr. Heck explained the existing division of funds from the state to the local level has been in place since 1988. Springfield receives 48.18 percent of the funding given to Clark County for disbursement to the townships, villages, and cities in the county.

On motion of Dr. Estrop, seconded by Mr. Rue, the resolution was adopted.

## **EMERGENCY ORDINANCES**

The following emergency legislation was presented for the first time:

**14-20      Emergency Ordinance No. 20-148: Providing for Supplemental Appropriations within various funds, and declaring an emergency therein.**

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.

**25-20      Emergency Ordinance No. 20-149: Confirming purchases and the obtaining of services for the City and providing for payments therefor, and declaring an emergency therein.**

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.

**125-20      Emergency Ordinance No. 20-150: Authorizing the City Manager to enter into an Agreement for Property Acquisition, Maintenance, and Disposition of 1822 S. Limestone St. with the Clark County Land Reutilization Corporation for an amount not to exceed \$90,000.00; 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 Agreement and to comply with all relevant local, state and federal legal requirements, and declaring an emergency therein, and declaring an emergency therein.**

### Discussion

Upon question by Dr. Estrop, Mr. Heck explained the subject property is the former Kroger store on South Limestone Street. The proposed agreement would assist the Clark County Land Bank with the redevelopment of the property. The Kroger Company is donating the property without deed restrictions, and the funding assists the Land Bank with operations and maintenance of that property. Discussions continue with interested parties for redevelopment.

Mrs. Chilton commented that citizens often ask about the proposed use of the property and how long it may take to find a use for it. Mr. Heck explained the initial six-month agreement plus three-month extension option with the Land Bank allows time to prepare a development plan reutilizing the building. If the building is determined to not be structurally sound or viable, the plan may be for demolition and land redevelopment.

Mr. Copeland commented he has shared with citizens that the City is working hard to find a grocery option for the location, and thanked the Land Bank for their part in the project.

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.

**126-20      Emergency Ordinance No. 20-151: Authorizing the City Manager to apply for and accept, if awarded, Federal CARES Act Funding distributed through the County Coronavirus Relief Distribution Fund, and declaring an emergency therein.**

### Discussion

Mrs. Chilton asked for details on how the funding could be used. Mr. Heck explained \$350 million in federal funding will be distributed by the State of Ohio as outlined in House Bill 481 for COVID-19-related expenses incurred by local governments with populations under 500,000. With strict guidance by the U.S. Treasury, Springfield may be entitled to receive \$2 million in reimbursements. Additional state funding may be available in the future with less restrictions.

Mr. Copeland spoke about a group of Ohio mayors who worked together to encourage passage of the funding bill by the Ohio House and Senate.

On motion of Mrs. Chilton, 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.

**150-18      Emergency Ordinance No. 20-152: Authorizing the City Manager to enter into Amendment No. 2 to the Home Ownership or Rental Housing Loan Agreement (800 Clifton Avenue - 2018) with Neighborhood Housing Partnership of Greater Springfield, Inc., and declaring an emergency therein.**

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.

**127-20      Emergency Ordinance No. 20-153: Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Subrecipient Funding Agreement with SBDC, Inc. to provide administrative funds in an amount not to exceed \$90,000.00 to further the development of small businesses in the City for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, and declaring an emergency therein.**

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.

**128-20** Emergency Ordinance No. 20-154: Authorizing the City Manager to enter into an Access Agreement [2020 #1] with Cascade Corporation granting access to City right of way to permit the installation of a monitoring well and piezometers in front of several properties, and declaring an emergency therein.

Discussion

Mr. Copeland stated his appreciation to the Cascade Corporation for allowing underground monitoring on their properties.

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.

**266-14** Emergency Ordinance No. 20-155: Confirming and approving Change Order No. 1 to the contract between the City and J & J Schlaegel, Inc. for the CLA Belmont Avenue Reconstruction Phase 2 Project, PID No. 94814, Rebid, to increase the contract in an amount not to exceed \$26,612.00, for a total amount not to exceed \$2,637,781.37; and authorizing the City Manager to execute said Change Order No. 1, and declaring an emergency therein.

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

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

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

**70-20** Emergency Ordinance No. 20-156: Amending Ordinance No. 20-66 to authorize the relocation of the underground electric/communication cables at the Water Treatment Plant, from Triec Electrical Services, Inc., for an amount not to exceed \$74,660.00, through the Ohio Department of Administrative Services, pursuant to Ohio's Cooperative Purchasing Act in accordance with the provisions of Section 125.04 of the Ohio Revised Code, and declaring an emergency therein.

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.

**ITEM ADDED TO THE AGENDA: RESOLUTION**

The following legislation was presented for the first time:

**129-20** Resolution No. 6085: Appointing Bruce Sigman to the Civil Service Commission, and declaring an emergency therein.

Discussion

Mr. Copeland thanked Mr. Sigman for agreeing to serve on the Civil Service Commission.

On motion of Mr. O'Neill, seconded by Mrs. Chilton, the resolution was adopted.

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 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 stated there were no employees in quarantine at that time. City Hall and other buildings remain closed to the public except for the Income Tax and Utility Billing divisions open for four hours per day to accommodate citizen traffic. Dispatch staff continues to notify first responders of addresses with known or suspected cases of COVID-19. The majority of Service Department staff have returned to work with the administrative staff working both remotely and in the office. Other departments are returning to work with staggered shifts. In-person City Commission and public meetings are under consideration for July.

Mr. Beckdahl reported the City's cash balance was holding steady and better than mid-March. Income Tax receipts are down by 8 percent but careful spending measures have offset the losses. Mr. Beckdahl indicated the balances are expected to decrease as operations resume and expenses are required.

Dr. Estrop commented other cities have seen higher percentages of losses, and thanked all staff for their continued work and efforts.

**7-20** Mrs. Chilton asked Police Chief Graf to speak on crime rates compared to last year. Chief Graf reported the overall call load is down about 16 percent compared to last year and was even lower during the COVID-19 shutdown. Crime statistics are up for the first five months of 2020 compared to 2019 by 5 percent with violent crimes up by 12 percent. Burglaries are down because more people are at home, but thefts have increased dramatically.

Dr. Estrop asked if the numbers are similar to other Ohio cities, and Chief Graf indicated other similar-sized cities have comparable numbers.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**55-20** Minutes from the National Trail Parks and Recreation District Board meeting on May 11, 2020.



There being no further business, on a motion of Dr. Estrop, seconded by Mr. Rue, the meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

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

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

Handwritten signature of Karan R. Copeland in black ink.

PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COMMISSION

Handwritten signature of Jill R. Pierce in blue ink.

CLERK OF THE CITY COMMISSION