

The City of Springfield, Ohio
City Commission Special Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 28, 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. Roll call was answered by Mrs. Chilton, Dr. Estrop, Mr. Rue, and Mr. Copeland. Mr. O'Neill was absent for a portion of the meeting.

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 July 14, 2020, Legislative Meeting as presented.

Yeas, Mrs. Chilton, Dr. Estrop, Mr. Rue, and Mr. Copeland.

Yeas 4, 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:

152-20 Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Chemical Services, Inc. for the purchase of Liquid Ferric Sulfate 60% for a period of one (1) year with an option to renew for two (2) additional one-year periods, for an amount not to exceed \$144,450.00.

~~~~~ Next City Commission meeting: August 11, 2020. ~~~~~

Discussion

Dr. Estrop asked for additional detail on the use of liquid ferric sulfate, and Service Director Moore explained the chemical's process at the Water Treatment Plant.

**SECOND READINGS—ORDINANCES**

The following legislation was presented for a second time:

**123-20 Ordinance No. 20-179: 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.**

On motion of Mr. Rue, seconded by Dr. Estrop, the Memorandum of Understanding presented as a first reading on June 30<sup>th</sup> be amended for second reading as written and distributed with today's agenda.

Yeas, Mrs. Chilton, Dr. Estrop, Mr. Rue, and Mr. Copeland.

Yeas 4, Nays 0.

Discussion

Mrs. Chilton commented that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is the first step in the process, and she would support the approval of the MOU.

Dr. Estrop thanked city and county staff, County Commissioner Flax Wilt and Sheriff Burchett for their work in preparing the MOU. Dr. Estrop commented that a joint dispatch center would operate more economically and efficiently for both city and county residents with a savings of \$250,000 per year. Dr. Estrop stated that he would support the legislation.

Mr. Rue commented that the proposed MOU is a large step towards moving to a next phase, would be fiscally responsible, and a good decision for the future if the employees are treated fairly. Mr. Rue also recognized the input of Chris Clark of Clark County, Paul Hicks of the City, and the City dispatch employees who have shared their concerns.

Mr. Copeland stated that he has concerns, but hopes the concerns are addressed in the next steps of the process.

The clerk read a letter from Mr. Andrew Rigsbee, 2101 Harshman Blvd, President of Springfield Professional Firefighters Local 333, related to the proposed MOU. A copy of the letter and other correspondence related to the MOU are filed as Commission Communications.

Mr. Rue thanked Mr. Rigsbee for his leadership for the firefighters and spoke on taking the first steps for the future.

Mrs. Chilton spoke on safety concerns for all citizens and fair treatment for all dispatchers.

Mr. Copeland stated the City's dispatchers provide superior service, and the focus should be the quality of service for the citizens.

On motion of Mr. Rue, seconded by Dr. Estrop, the ordinance passed.

Yeas, Mrs. Chilton, Dr. Estrop, Mr. Rue, and Mr. Copeland.

Yeas 4, Nays 0.

**259-15 Ordinance No. 20-180: Amending Ordinance No. 15-313, granting a franchise to First Transit, Inc. by amending Section 2 and Subsections 13(E)(1), 13(F)(1), 13(F)(2) and 13(F)(3) to extend the franchise for up to an additional one (1) year; establishing maximum City financial participation for the one-year extension; and establishing the management fees for the one-year extension period.**

Discussion

Dr. Estrop asked for a status report on the bus company's operations. Finance Director Beckdahl stated the bus company continues to operate within its budget. Mr. Beckdahl stated the COVID-19 virus has not impacted bus service for citizens although changes have been made to protect both riders and drivers. Assistant to the City Manager Cobbs reported decreases in 2020 ridership compared to 2019 for fixed routes, ADA Paratransit and Dial-a-Ride. Mr. Beckdahl added the bus company is largely funded by transit grants.

Ms. Cobbs also mentioned plans for an Appreciation Day for the bus company's drivers and staff tentatively scheduled for August 10 to celebrate and thank them for their continued efforts.

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

Yeas, Mrs. Chilton, Dr. Estrop, Mr. Rue, and Mr. Copeland.

Yeas 4, Nays 0.

**138-20 Ordinance No. 20-181: Authorizing the Finance Director to purchase 2,750 tons of rock salt for the 2020-2021 winter season from Cargill Inc. Deicing Technology for an amount not to exceed \$190,190.00, through the Ohio Department of Transportation Cooperative Purchasing Program in accordance with the provisions of Section 5513.01(B) of the Ohio Revised Code.**

On motion of Dr. Estrop, seconded by Mr. Rue, the ordinance passed.

Yeas, Mrs. Chilton, Dr. Estrop, Mr. Rue, and Mr. Copeland.

Yeas 4, Nays 0.

**139-20 Ordinance No. 20-182: Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Cooperation Agreement with The Springfield City School District Board of Education to assist the City and the Board of Education in creating and maintaining safe and orderly schools; and confirming and approving services provided up to the passage of this ordinance.**

On motion of Dr. Estrop, seconded by Mr. Rue, the ordinance passed.

Yeas, Mrs. Chilton, Dr. Estrop, Mr. Rue, and Mr. Copeland.

Yeas 4, Nays 0.

**EMERGENCY ORDINANCES**

The following emergency legislation was presented for the first time:

**14-20 Emergency Ordinance No. 20-183: 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. Rue, and Mr. Copeland.

Yeas 4, Nays 0.

**4-17 Emergency Ordinance No. 20-184: Amending Ordinance No. 19-238 authorizing the City Manager to submit an Application For Financial Assistance and accept a grant from the State of Ohio, Ohio Public Works Commission, to obtain funding in an amount up to \$801,409.00 for the CLA McCreight Avenue Project, PID No. 104831, and declaring an emergency therein.**

Discussion

Mrs. Chilton asked for additional information on the requested amendment. City Manager Heck stated the amendment would correct a project name incorrectly identified in the original contract. Mr. Heck added changes to state funding since the original contract allows for the project to begin sooner than anticipated.

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

Yeas, Mrs. Chilton, Dr. Estrop, Mr. Rue, and Mr. Copeland.

Yeas 4, Nays 0.

**170-15 Emergency Ordinance No. 20-185: Authorizing the City Manager to enter into Amendment No. 3 to the Temporary Indefeasible Right of Use Metropolitan Dark Fiber Agreement with Miami Valley Educational Computer Association Regional Council of Governments ("MVECA") to extend the term of the agreement to June 30, 2023 and to increase the monthly rate; confirming and approving services provided from June 22, 2020 to the passage of this Ordinance, and declaring an emergency therein.**

On motion of Dr. Estrop, seconded by Mr. Rue, the ordinance passed.

Yeas, Mrs. Chilton, Dr. Estrop, Mr. Rue, and Mr. Copeland.

Yeas 4, Nays 0.

**153-20 Emergency Ordinance No. 20-186: Authorizing the City Manager and the Chief of Police to submit a grant application for the 2020 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Award, to provide funding in the amount of \$32,399.00 to purchase various safety/technology equipment; authorizing the City Manager to enter into an Interlocal Agreement between the City and The Board of County Commissioners of Clark County, Ohio**

for an amount not to exceed \$16,199.00 in connection with the 2020 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant, and declaring an emergency therein.

Discussion

Dr. Estrop and Mrs. Chilton asked for additional details on the shared grant with Clark County. Mr. Heck and Police Chief Graf explained the annual grant is shared equally with the Clark County Sheriff's Office. The funds are expected to fund in-car cameras for Police this year.

On motion of Mrs. Chilton, seconded by Mr. Rue, the ordinance passed.

Yeas, Mrs. Chilton, Dr. Estrop, Mr. Rue, and Mr. Copeland.

Yeas 4, Nays 0.

**154-20 Emergency Ordinance No. 20-187: Authorizing the rewind repair of a 3750 KVA three phase substation transformer at the Water Treatment Plant, from Triec Electrical Services, Inc., for an amount not to exceed \$176,170.00, 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 Dr. Estrop, seconded by Mr. Rue, the ordinance passed.

Yeas, Mrs. Chilton, Dr. Estrop, Mr. Rue, and Mr. Copeland.

Yeas 4, Nays 0.

**129-19 Emergency Ordinance No. 20-188: Authorizing the City Manager to enter into Amendment No. 2 to the Agreement for Consulting Engineering Services [Eastern Pressure District Water Upgrades - Phase 2 Preliminary and Detailed Design] with Burgess & Niple, Inc. to shift funds among project tasks, and declaring an emergency therein.**

Mrs. Chilton asked for further information on the proposed agreement. Mr. Heck stated the agreement relates to engineering services for the second phase of the Eastern Pressure District's water service. The upgraded system serves the eastern portion of the city and provides water service for several industrial parks and businesses located in that area. Mr. Heck added the City is partnering with the County to place a new booster station at the rear property line of the County's Springview office complex eliminating the need to purchase additional property.

On motion of Dr. Estrop, seconded by Mr. Rue, the ordinance passed.

Yeas, Mrs. Chilton, Dr. Estrop, Mr. Rue, and Mr. Copeland.

Yeas 4, Nays 0.

\*\*\*NOTE: Mr. O'Neill jointed the meeting at 2:40 p.m.\*\*\*

**225-18 Emergency Ordinance No. 20-189: Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Consulting Agreement with Urban Fast Forward, Ltd. for the Springfield Engaged Neighborhood Planning Process Development (Phase II) for an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00, and declaring an emergency therein.**

Discussion

Mrs. Chilton asked for additional information on the project. Community Development Director Meadows described the first phase of the project for planning an Engaged Neighborhood. Phase 2 expands the project can be funded with Community Development Block Grant funds and include both consulting services and expanded data collection for the plan.

Dr. Estrop commended the Community Development Staff for their efforts and commented on the efforts to work together for the area's housing needs in connection with the redevelopment of the former Kroger property.

Mr. Heck also spoke on the redevelopment efforts and the community input discussions scheduled as virtual meetings. Additional details on the meetings may be obtained from Ms. Cobbs in the City Manager's Office.

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.

**155-20 Emergency Ordinance No. 20-190: Authorizing the City Manager to enter into an Engineering Agreement with Korda/Nemeth Engineering, Inc. for the Mount Joy Water Line Replacement Project for an amount not to exceed \$68,194.48, and declaring an emergency therein.**

On motion of Mr. Rue, seconded by Mrs. Chilton, 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 the project's detail and timeline. Mr. Moore stated this project includes Mount Joy from High to Morton and will include 3,800' of 6" water lines and replacement water services to houses in the area. The design phase will occur during the fall and winter, the project would be bid in spring, and construction would commence Summer 2021. Mr. Heck commented the engineering agreement allows for the planning needed for the water line repairs ahead of future paving projects.

**ITEM ADDED TO THE AGENDA: RESOLUTION**

The following emergency legislation was presented for the first time:

**156-20**      **Resolution No. 6088:** Reappointing Matthew R. Ryan to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

On motion of Mr. O'Neill, seconded by Dr. Estrop, the resolution was adopted.

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

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

**ITEM ADDED TO THE AGENDA: EMERGENCY RESOLUTION**

The following emergency legislation was presented for the first time:

**157-20**      **Emergency Resolution No. 6089:**    **Supporting the Davidson Flexibility for States and Localities Act; and declaring an emergency therein.**

Dr. Estrop asked for additional detail on the proposed resolution. Mr. Heck explained the federal funding provided to cities thus far for COVID-19 relief efforts is very restrictive for its use. Ohio Representative Warren Davidson has proposed legislation to relieve some of the restrictions on the fund's uses and provide flexibility for the local governments. The proposed resolution was written to support Representative Davidson's legislation.

On motion of Mrs. Chilton, seconded by Dr. Estrop, 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 Mr. Heck and Mr. Beckdahl to provide updates on city operations and finances.

Mr. Heck reviewed the status of employees who have been on quarantine and returned to work. Community engagement efforts for the redevelopment of the former Kroger store continues.

Mr. Beckdahl reported the City's finances are continuing to hold steady with over \$12.2 million in unencumbered General Fund cash and total cash balance of \$71 million with all major funds. Staff has been very proactive in not spending unnecessarily. Receipts for the middle of July 2020 was better than July 2019, but future receipts remain uncertain.

Mr. Rue asked if COVID-related funding could be used for public signage encouraging social distance and mask usage. Mr. Heck stated signs have been used by the Health District and National Trail Parks and Recreation District. City and County staff are working together to fund and acquire 40,000-50,000 masks through the Emergency Management Agency for distribution to the community.

Mrs. Chilton asked for additional detail on Small Business Toolkits distributed. Ms. Cobbs explained the kits containing masks and hand sanitizer were distributed to small business with less than 100 employees.

Dr. Estrop suggested sharing some of the state's videos on the City's cable access channel and website.

Mr. O'Neill stated the Bureau of Worker's Compensation also distributed masks to local businesses at no charge.

Mr. Rue thanked everyone involved in the paving updates on the trails. Mr. Heck commented all trails except for one new trail were repaved through grant funding. Mr. Moore added the updates should last at least ten years. Mr. O'Neill stated the contractor's work was well done.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**55-20**      Minutes of the National Trail Parks and Recreation District's 2021 Tax Budget Public Hearing and their regular monthly meeting held June 8, 2020.

**123-20**      Correspondence received relative to the Memorandum of Understanding with the Board of Clark County Commissioners for Communication and Dispatch Services.

**151-20**      Notification from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control regarding a request for a new liquor permit for Mr. Burrito LLC dba Hot Head Burritos, 2953 Derr Road, Springfield, Ohio 45503.

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There being no further business, on a motion of Dr. Estrop, seconded by Mr. Rue the meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

*Harvey R. Copeland*

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PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COMMISSION

*Jill R. Pierce*

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CLERK OF THE CITY COMMISSION