

The City of Springfield, Ohio
City Commission Special Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 11, 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 following a work session presentation. 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 July 28, 2020, Legislative Meeting as presented.

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:

159-20 Amending Ordinance No. 91-90, passed March 12, 1991, and commonly known as the Codified Ordinances of The City of Springfield, Ohio, by repealing and replacing existing Chapter 170 titled *Police Community Relations Advisory Group* with new Chapter 170 titled *Community Police Advisory Team*.

Discussion

Mr. Copeland spoke on the proposed changes to form a new Community Police Advisory Team which he indicated was partially in response to events happening across the country. The group's responsibilities include examining police procedures and ensuring police activities are handled properly.

Dr. Estrop asked how interested citizens can participate on the proposed team. City Manager Heck explained an application will be available soon on the City's website or from the City Clerk.

Mr. O'Neill asked how many members would serve on the team, and Mr. Heck explained nine members would serve compared to the former seven-member group.

Mrs. Chilton asked who would be eligible to serve. Mr. Heck stated members would be city residents who are registered voters. The Commission could waive the residency requirement if there is a potential member with valuable professional expertise. Mr. Heck also spoke on the educational aspect for all members of the new team including participating in the Citizens Police Academy. Mrs. Chilton spoke on the value of the Citizens Police Academy as well as the connection and awareness of other events occurring across the country.

Mr. Copeland stated an advisory team would be an appropriate activity for every city.

Mr. O'Neill emphasized the proposed group would be a good proactive effort, but the existing public safety forces in Springfield are of very high quality with good leadership.

The Clerk read a statement from Casey Patrick O'Brien, 1731 Trinity Drive, speaking on the membership makeup of the proposed Community Police Advisory Team. Mr. Copeland responded that the Commission will choose people to represent all segments of the community.

Mr. Heck also spoke on the proposed changes for the Community Police Advisory Team. He indicated the current community policing model adopted and used by our Police Division has made a difference in how our officers relate to the citizens. The proposed Team would build upon the existing relationship officers have with the community.

160-20 Authorizing the acceptance of a 2020-2021 Drug Use Prevention Grant in an amount up to \$38,732.40 from the Ohio Attorney General's Office to be used for funding four officers to teach drug use prevention education in public schools; and authorizing the City Manager, Finance 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.

161-20 Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Shelter Plus Care 1 Grant Agreement (Grant #OH0204L5E071912) with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development in an amount not to exceed \$185,891.00; 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 agreement and to comply with all relevant local, state and federal legal requirements; and authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Subrecipient Funding Agreement (Shelter Plus Care 1 Tenant Based Assistance -- 2020-2021) between the City and Springfield Metropolitan Housing Authority to conduct a Shelter Plus Care 1 funded Tenant Based Rental Assistance and Administration Program in an amount not to exceed \$169,440.00.

Discussion

Mr. Chilton asked Community Development Director Meadows to describe the grant in more detail along with qualifications for participation. Mrs. Meadows explained the grant is federal assistance to help transition citizens from emergency shelter to permanent housing. Eligible citizens must meet certain qualifications with priority given to those with disabilities and veterans along with programs for families and individuals.

162-20 Authorizing the exercise of the City's option to renew the contract with JCI Jones Chemicals, Inc. for the purchase of liquid chlorine for use by the City's Water Treatment Plant, for an amount not to exceed \$35,000.00.

Next City Commission meeting: August 25, 2020.

SECOND READINGS—ORDINANCES

The following legislation was presented for a second time:

152-20 Ordinance No. 20-191: 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.

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.

EMERGENCY ORDINANCES

The following emergency legislation was presented for the first time:

25-20 Emergency Ordinance No. 20-192: Confirming purchases and the obtaining of services for the City and providing for payments therefor; and declaring an emergency therein.

Discussion

Upon question from Mrs. Chilton, Mr. Beckdahl explained one expense for Ohio Edison included utility pole damage repair where the City could not recoup insurance reimbursement. The expenses include concrete, lane closures, flaggers, and labor related to pole repair.

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.

163-20 A Fiscal Officer's Certificate was presented in connection with the proposed issuance of notes in the maximum principal amount of \$500,000 (the "Notes"), to be issued in anticipation of the issuance of bonds (the "Bonds") for the purpose of paying the costs of reconstructing Gateway Blvd and providing for all related site improvements, together with all necessary appurtenances thereto (the "Improvement"), that: (1) The estimated life or period of usefulness of the Improvement is at least five years. (2) The estimated maximum maturity of the Bonds, calculated in accordance with Section 133.20 of the Revised Code, at least twenty (20) 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 August 28, 2040, which is two hundred forty (240) months from August 28, 2020, the date of issuance of the original note issued for this purpose.

Emergency Ordinance No. 20-193: Providing for the issuance and sale of Notes in the maximum principal amount of \$500,000, in anticipation of the issuance of Bonds, for the purpose of paying the costs of reconstructing Gateway Blvd. and providing for all related site improvements, together with all necessary appurtenances thereto; and declaring an emergency therein.

Discussion

Mr. O'Neill asked for information related to City's current responsibilities for the Prime Ohio Corporate Park. Mr. Heck stated the City is responsible for the repaving of Gateway Boulevard, and Springfield Township is responsible for minor maintenance including ditches and signs.

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 August 5, 2020, prior to the commencement of the City Commission meeting and prior to passage of the ordinance.

164-20 Emergency Ordinance No. 20-194: Authorizing the construction of two covered storage facilities from ClearSpan, for an amount not to exceed \$82,257.89, through Sourcewell, pursuant to the Sourcewell Contract Purchasing Cooperative Program, in accordance with the provisions of Section 9.48 of the Ohio Revised Code; and declaring an emergency therein.

Discussion

Dr. Estrop asked how the two storage facilities would be used. Service Director Moore indicated one would be used for salt storage and the other would be for sand and gravel storage.

On 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.

165-20 **Emergency Ordinance No. 20-195: Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Home Ownership or Rental Housing Loan Agreement (810 Clifton Avenue - 2020) with Neighborhood Housing Partnership of Greater Springfield, Inc. for the redevelopment of the 810 Clifton Avenue property; and declaring an emergency therein.**

Discussion

Mr. O'Neill asked for additional detail on the proposed agreement. Mrs. Meadows described the home ownership project which could become a rental housing project per HUD guidelines if the home is not sold. The project will construct one new home with a budget of \$199,544 from the HOME Loan Program and Neighborhood Housing Partnership funds. The original plan was for the home to be built by Springfield-Clark Career Technology Center students, but COVID-19 concerns may not permit the students to participate. If they cannot, funding has been included to use contractors to complete the project without delay.

Mr. O'Neill also asked for a comparison with projects completed by Opportunities for Individual Change (OIC), and Mrs. Meadows stated the subject property is a similar project to those completed by OIC.

Dr. Estrop commented on the positive partnerships allowing citizens to develop construction skills

On 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.

8-19 **Emergency Ordinance No. 20-196: Confirming and approving Change Order No. 1 to the contract between the City and Strawser Construction, Inc. for the CLA Trail Maintenance, Phase 2 Project, PID No. 109480, to increase the contract in an amount not to exceed \$22,403.48, for a total amount not to exceed \$194,348.08; and authorizing the City Manager to execute said Change Order No. 1; and declaring an emergency therein.**

Discussion

Dr. Estrop asked for additional detail on the change order increase. Mr. Moore explained the increase includes extra paving material for trail areas that were built larger than the original construction drawings indicated.

Mr. O'Neill asked if grant funding was used for this project, and Mr. Moore indicated \$17,900 came from the Ohio Department of Transportation and \$4,480 came from Permanent Improvement funds.

On 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

123-20 Mr. O'Neill explained he missed a portion of the July 28, 2020, meeting due to a medical appointment. However, he indicated that he would have voted against the Memorandum of Understanding with Clark County pertaining to the possible combined dispatch center. Mr. O'Neill explained he had spoken with various staff and finds the primary concern is a lack of full partnership for the parties involved. Mr. O'Neill stated the proposed plan would have the same issues as previous discussions without a full partnership, and the City would be at a disadvantage. Mr. O'Neill added the combined center could work and possibly save money, but he indicated the proposed savings is inaccurate. Mr. O'Neill also stated the services of a combined dispatch should be equal to or better than the services the citizens and public safety forces receive now, and the project must be a full partnership to be successful.

Mr. Rue stated good information has been provided, concessions made on both sides of the project, and the results are closer to an agreement than previous efforts. There are still concerns, but the conversations are ongoing.

Mr. O'Neill asked Mr. Beckdahl for additional detail on cost savings numbers. Mr. Beckdahl indicated that he has not seen final numbers for the proposed savings, and added the preliminary numbers are based on the number of calls. The savings could be higher based on 2020 budget, but the numbers needed to be further defined.

Mr. O'Neill stated he is in favor of a combined dispatch if done as a partnership.

Mrs. Chilton spoke on the Memorandum of Understanding approved at the last meeting is the first step in the process. She stated the four commissioners at the meeting voted to take the first step for various reasons and thanked the City Manager for continuing to work on the project.

Mr. Copeland stated that he voted to continue with the first step but shares many of the same concerns with Mr. O'Neill. He also stated that commissioners will review and vote on the next steps when they are presented.

7-20 Mrs. Chilton spoke on notification from Columbia Gas indicating service shut-offs for past due accounts would begin soon. Citizens were encouraged to call Columbia Gas at 800-344-4077 to make payment arrangements to avoid disruption of gas service.

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 self-quarantined due to exposure to COVID-19 and stated the operations continue normally. The Fire Division had eight new recruits graduate. Five new Police officers were sworn in with two lateral transfers beginning in-house training and three new officers beginning the Police Academy. Applications for new police officer positions are available through August 28, 2020, on the City's website.

Mr. Beckdahl reported the City's finances are continuing to hold steady with over \$14.3 million in unencumbered General Fund cash and total cash balance of \$72 million with all major funds. Income Tax receipts are down approximately 4 percent compared to 10 percent earlier in the year.

134-20 Mr. Heck spoke on seven meetings held with local organizations and stakeholders along with Larry Dillin of Dillin Corporation which were organized by Assistant City Manager and Economic Development Director Franzen and Assistant to the City Manager Cobbs.

Ms. Cobbs stated the meetings were well-received with approximately 100 people in all. Most feedback centered on the desire for a new grocery in that location.

Mrs. Chilton asked if additional meetings are planned. Ms. Cobbs stated each group was asked to select two representatives for smaller group discussions.

COMMUNICATIONS

158-20 Notification from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control of a liquor permit transfer request from M & R Amusements Inc. dba Ooh Ooh Drive Thru, 748 Selma Road, Springfield, Ohio 45505 to 4 Awes II LLC dba Cold Spot, 748 Selma Road, Springfield, Ohio 45505.

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There being no further business, on a motion of Dr. Estrop, seconded by Mr. Rue the meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

Karen R. Lapeland

PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COMMISSION

Jill R. Pierce

CLERK OF THE CITY COMMISSION