

The City of Springfield, Ohio
City Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 20, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.
City Hall Forum

The meeting was called to order by President Copeland. 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 motion of Dr. Estrop, seconded by Mr. Rue, members approved the minutes of the September 22, 2020, Work Session, Public Hearing, and 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:

187-20 Approving a Development Plan located at 3641 Middle Urbana Road to allow for the multi-family development of 94 residential units.

188-20 Amending the Zoning Map of Springfield, Ohio by rezoning 9.805 acres at 4401 South Charleston Pike, Springfield, Ohio from Springfield Township CP, Champions Park District, to City CH-1, Highway Commercial District.

~~~~~ Next regular City Commission meeting: November 2, 2020. ~~~~~

**SECOND READINGS—ORDINANCES**

The following legislation was presented for a second time:

**193-20 Ordinance No. 20-255: Authorizing and directing the City Manager to dispose of a 3D Printer, being property owned by the City and no longer needed for municipal purposes and should be disposed of pursuant to Codified Ordinance Section 149.03.**

Mrs. Chilton asked for additional detail on the 3D printer. City Manager Heck explained the printer was owned by a business the local airport and acquired using state funding. The printer will be donated to Clark State Community College for their manufacturing programs.

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.

**EMERGENCY ORDINANCES**

The following emergency legislation was presented for the first time:

**14-20 Emergency Ordinance No. 20-256: Providing for Supplemental Appropriations within various funds.**

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.

**178-20 Emergency Ordinance No. 20-257: Amending Ordinance No. 20-224 which authorized the annexation of and establishment of services to be furnished to the property owners at 4401 S. Charleston Pike upon annexation to the City of Springfield, Ohio.**

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.

**126-13 Emergency Ordinance No. 20-258: Authorizing the City Manager to enter into an amendment to the contract with The Ohio Bell Telephone Company dba AT&T Ohio for a one-year extension in connection with certain telephone services for municipal purposes for an amount not to exceed \$80,000.00**

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.

**197-20 Emergency Ordinance No. 20-259: Authorizing the purchase of 43 Mobile Precision 3551 Laptop Computers, and all necessary appurtenances thereto, from Dell Marketing LP, for an amount not to exceed \$72,684.19, 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.**

Mrs. Chilton asked for additional information for the purchase of laptop computers. Mr. Heck explained the laptops will be used by staff members working remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff have been able to work remotely with limited resources, and new laptops will provide additional and improved technology. Mrs. Chilton also commented that perhaps the commissioners could use the laptops as well.

Dr. Estrop asked if the expense related to technology can be reimbursed with federal funding. Mr. Heck stated the expense is eligible for reimbursement with CARES Act Funding distributed by the federal government to the states and then to the local governments.

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.

**5-17a Emergency Ordinance No. 20-260: Authorizing the City Manager to enter into LPA Agreement No. 800834 - Amendment No. 2 between the City and the Ohio Department of Transportation in connection with the CLA Derr Road 0.00 Project, PID No. 104833 to provide clarity regarding funding sources.**

Mr. O'Neill asked Mr. Heck for an update on the Derr Road Project. Mr. Heck explained the two legislative items on agenda pertain to the reconstruction of Derr Road from Home Road to Providence allowing the project to continue into the design phase which includes widening four lanes to five including a center turn lane and a 10 foot trail on the east side of the street to Villa Road. An application for safety funds was not awarded for the \$2.9 million project, but \$900,000 in federal funding was secured. Once designed, staff will look for additional funding. Following design and funding, the project could go to bid in Fall 2022 or Spring 2023.

Mr. O'Neill asked for confirmation that the proposed lane design had not changed. Mr. Heck stated the concept of five lanes had not changed. Mr. O'Neill spoke on the denial of safety funding by the state.

Dr. Estrop commented on reduced gas prices resulting in less gasoline tax collected by the state for road projects.

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.

**5-17b Emergency Ordinance No. 20-261: Authorizing the City Manager to enter into Modification No. 1 to Agreement No. 32450 with American Structurepoint, Inc. for the CLA Derr Road 0.00 Project, PID No. 104833, to increase the agreement amount by \$391,151.00 for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$490,009.00.**

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.

**198-20 Emergency Ordinance No. 20-262: Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Subrecipient Funding Agreement Emergency Financial Hardship Assistance [CDBG 2020] with Neighborhood Housing Partnership of Greater Springfield, Inc. to provide emergency rent and utility assistance to residents of the City of Springfield, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00.**

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.

**199-20 Emergency Ordinance No. 20-263: Authorizing the City Manager to enter into an Agreement with the Drug Enforcement Administration to reimburse expenditures for officers involved in joint operations in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00, for the period of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021; 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 Agreement, and to comply with all relevant local, state and federal legal requirements; confirming and approving services provided under said Agreement from October 1, 2020 to the passage of this Ordinance.**

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.

**145-20 Emergency Ordinance No. 20-264: Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Grant Agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation ("ODOT"), Aviation Division in an amount of 79% of the project cost not to exceed \$31,600.00 for the removal of obstructions which are hazardous to air traffic landing at the Springfield-Beckley Municipal Airport; authorizing an expenditure of up to \$12,175.00 to be used as local matching funds; authorizing the City Manager, Law Director, Airport Manager and the Director of Finance to do all things necessary for the execution of the Grant Agreement and to comply with all relevant local, state and federal legal requirements.**

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.

**COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

**7-20** Mrs. Chilton read of proclamation proclaiming October 26, 2020, as Orphus Taylor Day in honor of the former Assistant Mayor and Commissioner who recently passed away.

**89-20** Dr. Estrop asked the City Manager and Finance Director for an update on city operations and finances.

Mr. Heck reported a low number of employees currently impacted by the COVID-19 virus. Operations are continuing normally and neighborhood street repairs progressing. Mr. Heck reminded commissioners the increase in tax dollars generated by the 2017 tax levy allows for at least \$2 million for neighborhood street projects each year that are not eligible for state or federal funding.

Mr. Beckdahl stated the City's finances continue to do well with balances similar to the same period in 2019. Mr. Beckdahl commended the staff's efforts to keep spending down.

Dr. Estrop and Mr. Copeland both spoke on other cities suffering during this time in comparison.

**134-20** Mr. Heck reported demolition of a former auction facility adjacent to the former Kroger store located on South Limestone Street would be demolished the following week. The developer continues to work on a development plan for the immediate area.

**7-20** Mr. Copeland reminded everyone that the next City Commission meeting would be held on Monday, November 2, due to Election Day on Tuesday, November 3.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

**7-20** Mr. Mike Lowe thanked commissioners for allowing open meetings once again and asked about the local government cable channel being dark. Mr. Heck explained there is an issue with the local cable company not yet providing a digital feed compatible with the City's new digital broadcast equipment. Staff continues to work with the cable company to resolve the issue.

Mr. Lowe also asked about the increase in local license fees for vehicles. Mr. Heck stated the City added an additional \$5 fee to license registration fees in 2019 for street repairs. Mr. Lowe commented on employee longevity bonuses.

**7-20** Mr. Donald Crist, 1026 Armsgate Road, spoke on behalf of the Villa Run Condo Association regarding the monthly stormwater fees charged to the Association, and the repair expenses for a drainage ditch nearby.

Mr. Larry Riley, 1030 Armsgate Road, also spoke on the expense of repairing a waterway shared with the city.

**7-20** Mr. David Sanford, 528 Yellow Springs Street, spoke on blacktop installed on nearby property over a sewer line without a permit.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

The following communications were received and filed:

**55-20** Minutes of the September 14, 2020, meeting of the National Trail Parks and Recreation District Board.

**112-20** Quarterly Investment Report, Third Quarter 2020.

**196-20** Transportation Coordinating Committee's 2020 Annual Report.



There being no further business, on motion of Dr. Estrop, seconded by Mrs. Chilton, the meeting adjourned.

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

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

*Mr. Aaron R. Copeland*

PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COMMISSION

*Gill R. Pierce*

CLERK OF THE CITY COMMISSION