

The City of Springfield, Ohio
City Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 24, 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 November 2, 2020, Work Session, Public Hearings, 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:

200-20 Amending the Zoning Map of Springfield, Ohio by rezoning 0.57 acres at 120, 122, and 126 Bell Avenue, Springfield, Ohio from RS-5, Low-Density, Single-Family Residence District and CC-2, Community Commercial District to CI-1, Intensive Commercial District.

201-20 Vacating the first alley north of East High Street from Fostoria Avenue east to the intersecting north-south alley.

214-20 Amending Ordinance No. 91-90, passed March 12, 1991, and commonly known as the Codified Ordinances of The City of Springfield, Ohio, by the amendment of Sections 911.16 and 915.02 thereof, relative to utility connection fees on unassessed property; and repealing existing Sections 911.16 and 915.02.

Dr. Estrop asked for additional information on the proposed Codified Ordinance changes. Finance Director Beckdahl explained staff is required to review and recommend utility connection fees. The proposed fee schedule includes a small increase for water connections and a decrease for the sewer connections.

215-20 Authorizing the City Manager to apply for and accept, if awarded, a FY2020 Ohio Law Enforcement Body Armor Program Grant in an amount up to \$7,578.00 from the Ohio Attorney General's Office; and 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.

216-20 Authorizing the Law Director to approve and settle a claim with Brian S. McGee for the expense incurred as a result of damage that occurred on his property located at 260 West Harding Road on or about August 10, 2020; and authorizing the Director of Finance to make payment to Brian S. McGee in the amount of Eight Hundred Dollars (\$800.00) as full settlement as and for said damages.

217-20 Authorizing the City Manager to enter into Amendment No. 1 to the Subrecipient Funding Agreement with the Clark County Combined Health District to extend the period of performance to December 31, 2021.

Mrs. Chilton asked for additional detail on the proposed funding agreement for the Health District. City Manager Heck reminded commissioners that funding for COVID-19 testing was provided earlier this year. The proposed amendment extends the funding agreement through December 2021 for expenditures.

218-20 Authorizing the payment of up to \$74,000.00 to The Board of County Commissioners of Clark County, Ohio, to obtain planning services from Clark County-Springfield Transportation Coordinating Committee ("TCC") for the 2021 calendar year.

☞☞☞ Next regular City Commission meeting: December 8, 2020. ☞☞☞

SECOND READINGS—ORDINANCES

The following legislation was presented for a second time:

202-20 Ordinance No. 20-277: Confirming and approving a Development Incentive Agreement (Non-residential Development) with Holdings Springfield Upper Valley, LLC, and ICP Springfield Upper Valley, LLC, to provide for water and sewer services to real property outside the City limits.

Dr. Estrop asked for additional detail on the proposed agreement. Service Director Moore indicated the subject property has an existing water and sewer agreement. The new agreement would extend the same services to the new property owner and update the agreement terms.

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.

127-15 **Ordinance No. 20-278:** **Authorizing the City Manager to enter into Amendment No. 6 to the Agreement for Professional Engineering Consulting Services between the City and Strand Associates, Inc. in connection with the Combined Sewer Overflow Long Term Control Plan to extend the contract completion date to December 31, 2022 and to modify the hourly billing rates.**

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.

203-20 **Ordinance No. 20-279:** **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 the amount of \$955,609.00 for the 2021 OPWC Paving Project; and authorizing the City Manager, Law Director, Finance Director and City Engineer to do all things they consider necessary for the submission of the Application For Financial Assistance and the acceptance of the grant.**

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.

204-20 **Ordinance No. 20-280:** **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 the amount of \$149,320.00 for the CLA - US40D/40 0.00/13.76, PID No. 103332, and further identified as the Westbound 40 from Greenmount Avenue to Limestone Street Project; and authorizing the City Manager, Law Director, Finance Director and City Engineer to do all things they consider necessary for the submission of the Application For Financial Assistance and the acceptance of the grant.**

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.

205-20 **Ordinance No. 20-281:** **Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a ten-year contract for Communication and Dispatch Services with the Board of Clark County Commissioners ("County") for an amount not to exceed \$1,149,320.00 for the initial contract year.**

Mr. O'Neill spoke on the proposed merger with Clark County which had been discussed and negotiated at various times for many years. Previous discussions did not result in an agreement because a council of government was not established and the City would become a customer of the County, not a partner. Mr. O'Neill stated the proposed agreement remains very similar with the City as a customer instead of a partner with no council of government although there would be an advisory board with City representatives. Mr. O'Neil stated his concerns for not having a seat at the table for the operation of the center and concerns for the Fire and Police personnel, but not with the operation of the center by the Sheriff. Mr. O'Neill stated his hope the agreement, if voted favorably, works out for the citizens, police, fire and dispatchers.

Dr. Estrop spoke on five points related to the proposed agreement: (1) collective bargaining success related to the agreement, (2) commendations to Clark County Commission, Sheriff Burchett and City staff for their efforts with the agreement, (3) projected costs savings for the City as a result of the agreement for the first and subsequent years, (4) an advisory committee representing all parties and an option to withhold payment if needed, and (5) the former Financial Advisory Committee specifically recommended a combined dispatch to save money prior to the existing tax levy.

Mrs. Chilton thanked all dispatchers who emailed information to the commissioners and described their work. Mrs. Chilton commented that she spoke with the Fire Chief and Police Chief who indicated best practices and training would continue in a combined center. Mrs. Chilton stated that having one dispatch center for all areas of Clark County and Springfield would serve everyone regardless where a call for assistance is placed.

Upon question from Mrs. Chilton, Mr. Heck further described the proposed agreement including base pay rates, seniority, and vacation for current City personnel which is critical for the success of merging employees. The County raised their employee wages and created an opportunity for current supervisors to become supervisors at the new location. The Operations Advisory Team would have representatives from Springfield Police and Fire divisions and the current Dispatch Manager along with the County representatives. A dispute resolution process has also been established with one Clark County commissioner, one Springfield commissioner, and a neutral party.

Mr. Rue spoke his gratitude for the collaboration between the city and county representatives. Mr. Rue thanked the Sheriff and her staff for their efforts along with County Commissioner Melanie Flax-Wilt, County Administrator Jenny Hutchinson, and City Manager Heck in the agreement process. Mr. Rue stated the recommendation of the Financial Advisory Committee was important and commented that he feels this is the best deal and the least painful for everyone. Mr. Rue noted that no one wants to see harm to any citizen or first responder.

Mr. Copeland stated that he shared some of Mr. O'Neill's concerns, but added the City Manager negotiated a responsible and workable agreement. Mr. Copeland also commented on concerns related to a new Sheriff could be elected every four years.

Ms. Angie Smith, coordinator for the City of Springfield Dispatch Center, spoke on comments made by the City Manager in 2019 that a merger would have a negative impact on dispatch services. Ms. Smith commented on the value of having two separate centers as a backup for the other agency in an emergency, and spoke on compensation packages.

Ms. Melanie Flax-Wilt, President of the Clark County Commission, thanked City commissioners and staff for continuing to work on an agreement, spoke on the planned technical advisory board to maintain national standards, and the efforts to serve all Clark County residents which includes Springfield residents. Ms. Flax-Wilt stated the existing City dispatch employees would be treated fairly with County employees as a partnership.

Mr. Ross McGregor, President of Pentaflex, 4981 Gateway Boulevard, spoke in support of the proposed agreement and stated a combined dispatch center made sense for both agencies.

Clark County Sheriff Deb Burchett, 120 North Fountain Avenue, stated her thankfulness of both parties joining together to make dispatch services safer for all citizens and public safety forces.

Major Chris Clark, Clark County Sheriff's Office, 120 North Fountain Avenue, thanked commissioners for their positive comments and stated the process is just beginning to meet the goal of a combined dispatch center.

Mr. Tom Loftis, 1960 Audubon Park Drive, spoke of a Chamber of Commerce meeting where the benefits and risks of a combined center were discussed. Mr. Loftis stated his support of a combined center for the checks and balances of a joint operation.

Mr. Harold Frost, 304 Armgate Drive, spoke on concerns related to miscommunication for his neighborhood which is located in the city but the wrong dispatch center received the call for assistance.

The City Clerk read a communication from Steve Neely, President of Armoloy of Ohio, 1950 East Leffel Lane. Mr. Neely stated his support of a combined dispatch for the financial benefit and enhanced quality of service.

The City Clerk read a communication from Michael McDorman, President and CEO of the Chamber of Great Springfield, 20 South Limestone Street. Mr. McDorman commented on a 2016 performance audit which included the number one priority of combining the dispatch centers.

Mrs. Chilton stated she supported the proposed agreement as best practices detailed in the agreement would bring the two agencies together for all of Clark County.

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

Yeas, Mrs. Chilton, Dr. Estrop, Mr. Rue, and Mr. Copeland. Nay, Mr. O'Neill Yeas 4, Nays 1.

EMERGENCY ORDINANCES

The following emergency legislation was presented for the first time:

25-20 Emergency Ordinance No. 20-282: 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. O'Neill, 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. 20-283: Authorizing the City Manager to enter into Amendment No. 1 to the Subrecipient Funding Agreement Emergency Financial Hardship Assistance [CDBG 2020] with Neighborhood Housing Partnership of Greater Springfield, Inc. to provide additional emergency rent and utility assistance to residents of the City of Springfield, in an amount not to exceed \$250,000.00 for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$350,000.00.

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.

220-20 Emergency Ordinance No. 20-284: Accepting contributions for the potential conversion of 11,000 square feet of the former Downs Army Reserve Complex to a shelter for homeless services.

Mr. Otis Williams, 1627 Yorkshire Court, spoke in support of Interfaith Hospitality Network who needs assistance providing care for the homeless during the pandemic. Mr. Williams noted many homeless citizens have jobs but need help with safe housing.

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.

097-20 Emergency Ordinance No. 20-285: Adopting a First Substantial Amendment to the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and 2020 Action Plan of The City of Springfield, Ohio as submitted to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, to reflect CARES ACT funding and COVID related needs; authorizing the City Manager, Finance Director, Community Development Director and Law Director to perform all acts and execute all documents necessary to implement such First Substantial Amendment to the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and 2020 Action Plan of The City of Springfield, Ohio.

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.

221-20 Emergency Ordinance No. 20-286: Authorizing the City Manager to apply for and accept, if awarded, a Local Community Grant through Walmart in an amount up to \$5,000.00 to be used for the purchase of CPR equipment; authorizing the City Manager, Law Director and the Director of Finance to do all things necessary for the submission of the application and to comply with all relevant local, state and federal legal requirements.

Fire Chief Miller stated the Fire Division intends to use the grant funds, if awarded, for CPR mannequins which are used for training. Mrs. Chilton asked if the CPR training is open to the public, and Chief Miller indicated the Fire Division's Training Center may be used by certified instructors as a testing site. Training can be obtained through outside agencies.

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.

184-20 Emergency Ordinance No. 20-287: Authorizing the City Manager to enter into LPA Agreement No. 35221 - Amendment No. 1 between the City and the Ohio Department of Transportation in connection with the CLA SR 72-6.83 Project, PID No. 113792 to provide clarity regarding the funding sources.

Upon question from Mrs. Chilton, Mr. Heck described the proposed amendment that pertains to Phase 1 of the project to widen and resurface South Limestone Street from Leffel Lane to Landsdowne and addresses the state funding sources.

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.

154-17 Emergency Ordinance No. 20-288: Authorizing the City Manager to execute Consultant Modification No. 32946-1 with LJB, Inc. to provide additional engineering design services for the CLA SR 72-6.83 Project, PID No. 106287/113792, for an amount not to exceed \$309,445.00 for a total amount not to exceed \$571,838.00.

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.

222-20 Emergency Ordinance No. 20-289: Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Granite Inliner, LLC for the 2020 Miscellaneous Sewer Lining Project for an amount not to exceed \$447,736.50.

Dr. Estrop commented on the cost effectiveness of lining the existing sewer lines instead of replacing them. Mr. Moore agreed the process saves money and reduces the disruption of service.

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.

135-20 Emergency Ordinance No. 20-290: Confirming and approving Change Order No. 1 to the contract between the City and Outdoor Enterprise, LLC for the Center Street Streetscape Project, to increase the contract in an amount not to exceed \$29,447.25, for a total amount not to exceed \$217,942.65; and authorizing the City Manager to execute said Change Order No. 1.

Mrs. Chilton asked if the proposed project pertained to the area near new downtown townhomes, and Mr. Heck confirmed the location.

On 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.

258-19 Emergency Ordinance No. 20-291: Authorizing an additional payment of \$7,400.00 to The Board of County Commissioners of Clark County, Ohio, to obtain planning services from Clark County-Springfield Transportation Coordinating Committee ("TCC"), for a total payment not to exceed \$74,000.00 for the 2020 calendar year.

Mr. Heck explained the additional \$7,400.00 payment is for annual planning services for the transit system utilizing eligible CARES Funding for the required 10 percent match.

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.

ITEM ADDED TO THE AGENDA: EMERGENCY ORDINANCE

The following legislation was presented for the first time:

219-20 Emergency Ordinance No. 20-292: Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Subrecipient Funding Agreement with SBDC, Inc. to provide funds in an amount not exceed \$806,250.00 to further the development of small businesses in the City for the period of July 1, 2020 through October 27, 2022; and declaring an emergency therein.

Mr. O'Neill asked for additional information related to funding for SBDC. Mr. Heck stated CARES Funding is available from the Economic Development Administration to assist small businesses through the City's partner agency, SBDC, Inc.

Mrs. Chilton asked how citizens can apply for small business assistance. Mr. Heck stated the telephone number for SBDC is 937-322-7821 and additional information is on the City's website.

On 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.

ITEM ADDED TO THE AGENDA: EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

The following legislation was presented for the first time:

223-20 Emergency Resolution No. 6098: Reappointing Dyana Guilford-Shaffer to the Community Grant Advisory Board, and declaring an emergency therein.

On motion of Dr. Estrop, 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.

224-20 Emergency Resolution No. 6099: Consenting to the appointment of members to the community Police Advisory Team (Jeannette Anderson, James Bacon, Lisa Dunn, Lisa Henry, Ramona Henry, Lauren Kelley, Ravi Khanna, Otis Williams and Robert Young); and declaring an emergency therein.

Mrs. Chilton congratulated all of the new members of the Team.

On motion of Mr. Rue, 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

7-20 Mr. Copeland announced the City Commission would hold their December and January meetings virtually at 2 p.m. starting Tuesday, December 8, 2020. Persons who wish to participate may contact the City Clerk at 937-324-7341 for additional information.

89-20 Dr. Estrop asked Mr. Heck to speak on the status of City operations and Mr. Beckdahl to speak on the status of the City finances during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Heck stated City services continue despite the local spike in COVID-19 cases. The Springfield Dispatch Center and the Police Division both have several employees in quarantine, but service to citizens has not been impacted. City buildings that have maintained limited hours for several months will be closed beginning Monday, November 23, to protect citizens and employees. Citizens may contact the various departments for assistance.

Mr. Beckdahl indicated the City's cash balances continue to hold steady with careful spending.

134-20 Dr. Estrop asked for an update on the redevelopment project on South Limestone Street. Mr. Heck reported detailed design work continues with a public involvement period. Information regarding a virtual open house is on the City's website.

COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were received and filed:

55-20 Minutes of the October 12, 2020 meeting of the National Trail Parks and Recreation District Board.

225-20 Correspondence from NOPEC regarding their General Assembly meeting and their 2020 Community Profile for Springfield.



There being no further business, on motion of Dr. Estrop, seconded by Mr. Rue, the meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

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

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

Maureen R. Copeland

PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COMMISSION

Jill R. Pierce

CLERK OF THE CITY COMMISSION