

**The City of Springfield, Ohio**  
**City Commission Special Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, December 8, 2020 – 2:00 p.m.**  
**Virtual Meeting via ZOOM Internet Application**

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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 public hearing. 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 Mr. Rue, seconded by Dr. Estrop, members approved the minutes of the November 16, 2020 Budget Meeting; November 17, 2020 Budget and Legislative Meeting; November 24, 2020 Work Session; November 24, 2020 Public Hearings; and November 24, 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:

**226-20      Confirming and approving a Development Incentive Agreement (Non-residential Development) with Golden Sites, Ltd., to provide for water and sewer services to real property outside the City limits.**

**227-20      Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Development Incentive Agreement (Single Family Residential Development) with James H. Britton and Karen S. Britton, to provide for water services to real property outside the City limits.**

**228-20      Authorizing the City Manager to enter into agreements with Reid Park Limited for the lease, operation and maintenance of Reid Park Golf Course.**

Mr. Rue asked for additional details on the proposed agreement. City Manager Heck stated the new agreement for operations of Reid Golf Course is for one year with two one-year renewal options. Differences from prior agreements include the lessees' responsibility for annual property taxes and the city will provide up to \$36,000 per contract year for capital improvements. Mr. Heck commented the golf course had good usage in 2020 as an outdoor activity during the COVID-19 pandemic which will hopefully generate additional interest in future years.

**229-20      Authorizing the City Manager to enter into an Agreement with the National Trail Parks and Recreation District ("NTPRD") for an amount not to exceed \$300,000.00 for the maintenance of certain real estate owned by the City.**

🕒🕒🕒      Next City Commission meeting: December 22, 2020.      🕒🕒🕒

**FIRST READINGS—RESOLUTIONS**

The following legislation was read by title only for the first time and requires presentation at a second regular meeting before vote on passage:

**230-20      Extending support from the City Commission of The City of Springfield, Ohio to a tax credit development proposed by Neighborhood Housing Partnership of Greater Springfield, Inc.**

**231-20      Extending support from the City Commission of The City of Springfield, Ohio to a tax credit development proposed by Interfaith Housing Network and RLH Partners for permanent supportive housing.**

Mrs. Chilton asked for additional information on the two requests for support. Community Development Director Meadows explained both projects. The Neighborhood Housing Partnership project includes 60 senior apartments at their current development site and a nearby proposed site. The Interfaith Housing Network and RLH Partners project is for 40 units of permanent supportive housing for residents who have been previously homeless or unable to use public housing services. The units include renovation of an existing multi-family building and new duplex units. The Community Grant Advisory Board reviewed both projects and recommended approval by the City Commission.

🕒🕒🕒      Next City Commission meeting: December 22, 2020.      🕒🕒🕒

**SECOND READINGS—ORDINANCES**

The following legislation was presented for a second time:

**200-20      Ordinance No. 20-293: 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.**

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.

**201-20 Ordinance No. 20-294: Vacating the first alley north of East High Street from Fostoria Avenue east to the intersecting north-south alley.**

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.

**214-20 Ordinance No. 20-295: 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.**

Mrs. Chilton asked for an explanation of the proposed changes. Mr. Beckdahl explained the utility connection fees are reviewed every few years to ensure appropriate pricing. The proposed connection fee for water would increase from \$200.90 to \$215.00. The rate for connection to sewer would be decreased from \$1,090.99 to \$625.00.

Mr. O'Neill noted the fee decrease is good for developers who are actively building in the city.

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.

**215-20 Ordinance No. 20-296: 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.**

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.

**216-20 Ordinance No. 20-297: 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.**

On motion of Mr. Rue, 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.

**217-20 Ordinance No. 20-298: 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.**

Upon question from Mrs. Chilton, Mr. Heck explained the existing agreement with the Health District to provide COVID-19 testing for citizens in low- to moderate-income neighborhoods would expire on December 31, 2020. The proposed amendment would extend the expiration date to December 31, 2021, as the need for testing would continue into the next year.

Mrs. Chilton asked if citizens previously tested could be tested again, and Mr. Heck stated that residents are eligible for repeat testing if needed.

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.

**218-20 Ordinance No. 20-299: 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.**

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.

### **EMERGENCY ORDINANCES**

The following emergency legislation was presented for the first time:

**153-20 Emergency Ordinance No. 20-300: Confirming and approving the acceptance of the 2020 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Award through the U.S. Department of Justice, to provide funding in the amount of \$32,399.00 to purchase various safety/technology equipment.**

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.

**148-20 Emergency Ordinance No. 20-301: Confirming and approving Change Order No. 1 to the contract between the City and Milcon Concrete, Inc. for the W. Main St. Sewer Project, to increase the contract in an**

**amount not to exceed \$102,566.32, for a total amount not to exceed \$441,411.32; and authorizing the City Manager to execute said Change Order No. 1.**

Dr. Estrop asked for details on the large increase requested for the sewer project. Service Director Moore explained the entire increase is due to the amount of rock found in the project area. Core samples did not reveal the large amount of rock found which resulted in higher expenses.

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.

**232-20 Emergency Ordinance No. 20-302: Confirming and approving Change Order No. 1 to the contract between the City and Shelly Company for the 2020 Paving Add for Gateway Blvd, to decrease the contract in an amount not to exceed \$110,650.77, for a total amount not to exceed \$359,249.63; and authorizing the City Manager to execute said Change Order No. 1.**

Upon question by Dr. Estrop, Mr. Moore explained the decreased expense was due to pavement in the project area in better condition than anticipated which did not require a full base replacement.

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.

### **NEW ITEMS ADDED TO THE AGENDA: RESOLUTIONS**

The following legislation was presented for the first time:

**233-20 Resolution No. 6100: Consenting to the reappointment of Blontas Mitchell and David Cotto to the Human Relations Board.**

On motion of Mr. Rue, 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.

**234-20 Resolution No. 6101: Consenting to the appointment of Margaret Foley to the City Planning Board.**

On motion of Mrs. Chilton, seconded by Mr. Rue, the resolution was adopted.

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

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

**233-20 Resolution No. 6102: Consenting to the reappointment of James R. Smith to the City Planning Board.**

On motion of Mr. Rue, 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 stated the number of positive cases and quarantined employees was better than the previous two weeks, but numbers are still elevated. City buildings are closed to the public, but services continue normally. City staff continue to work, and citizens may contact all departments by telephone.

Mr. Beckdahl reported the City's finances are continuing to hold steady with Income Tax receipts within 1 percent of the same time in 2019.

**134-20** Mr. Heck also spoke on the South Limestone redevelopment plan and indicated that staff hopes to finalize a business plan with the development company Dillin Corp.

**184-20** Mr. Heck also spoke on the South Limestone Street Reconstruction Project. The public engagement period is underway online with a Virtual Open House available through January 12, 2021, with a link on the City's website. Citizens may leave feedback through the City's website or calling the City Engineer's Office.

**7-20** Dr. Estrop asked the status of the downtown parking garage, and Mr. Heck stated the free parking in the garage had been extended through the end of 2021 in light of the number of downtown offices utilizing remote workers and the impact of the pandemic on local businesses.

Mr. Copeland spoke on the homeless crisis in Springfield and across the state. Mrs. Meadows further explained the efforts on the federal, state and local levels to support the homeless population. The pandemic forced the closure of congregate shelters resulting in a waiting list of 243 individuals in Springfield or housing with more expected when the eviction moratorium expires on December 31, 2020. Mrs. Meadows spoke on the efforts of Interfaith Hospitality Network to secure funding for hotels as shelters. Mrs. Meadows stated the current number of homeless individuals seeking shelter is a 657 percent increase from the same time period last year.

There being no further business, on a motion of Dr. Estrop, seconded by Mr. Rue the meeting adjourned at 2:57 p.m.

*Karan R. Copeland*

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PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COMMISSION

*Jill R. Pierce*

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CLERK OF THE CITY COMMISSION