

City of Springdale Council

December 7, 2022

President of Council Vanover called Council to order on December 7, 2022

The governmental body and those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. McNear took roll call. Council members Anderson, Ghantous, Hawkins, Jacobs, Sullivan-Wisecup, and Vanover were present.

President Vanover: Mr. Ramirez reached out. He is under the weather, and won't be with us this evening.

The minutes of the November 16, 2022 meeting were considered. Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup made a motion to accept the minutes; Mrs. Ghantous seconded. The minutes were approved with five affirmative votes. (Mr. Ramirez was absent, and Mr. Anderson abstained)

Mayor Webster: I just have a brief comment. It's nice to see so many smiling faces out here. And, I've said this before; the only time we ever have this many people in the Council Chambers is if we're going to raise taxes, or we're thinking about building a sidewalk in somebody's front yard, and we have neither one of those on the agenda tonight. So, welcome to all of you, and, I think it's just absolutely outstanding that all of you fire men and women have shown up to welcome your newest members aboard, so, congratulations all of you for showing that kind of support for your fellow firemen.

Mr. Jones: Thank you Mayor (Webster). And, I guess with that, we too appreciate everyone being here and we'll turn things over to Chief Stanley and let our Fire Chief make those introductions.

Chief Stanley: Mr. President, Elected Officials, City Administration, we're very grateful for this opportunity to come in today and let you meet our newest full-time members of the Fire Department. We always appreciate the support that you guys give. We're very proud of our Fire Department, but, we couldn't achieve the things that we achieve if it wasn't for all the support that all of you give to us. City Administration, we work hand-in-hand with you on a daily basis. You're very supportive of the Fire Department. You couldn't have a better City Administration in this City. So, it's very refreshing; just all the help and the support that we get from them on a daily basis and from you as needed. So, we really appreciate that and this is definitely a very fun part of the job to introduce you to the new faces that we have in the Fire Department and we get an opportunity to see their family members, meet them, meet the kids, parents, and stuff like that. So, it's really a fun time for all of us so, what we'll do tonight is we'll have our three Captains introduce their new personnel that's assigned to their shift, and then we'll go from there.

So, we have Captain Craig Kuhlmann, he's a Unit One Captain. Brian Losekamp is our Unit Two Captain, and Steve Sarver is our Unit Three Captain. We're doing a great job in our Fire Department; we have very good leadership in there. Scott Williams, our new Assistant Fire Chief is doing a fantastic job for us, so, I'm just going to take this opportunity to brag him a little bit if that's okay, and, of course, our firefighters that are the backbone of our department. They're very capable individuals; very capable men and women in the Fire Department. They do a fantastic job for us on a daily basis. I couldn't be more proud of them. I'll turn it over to Captain Craig Kuhlmann.

Captain Kuhlmann: Thanks Chief (Stanley). Good evening. Like Chief (Stanley) said, we appreciate the opportunity to do this. Fire service is rich with tradition and this is a tradition that we enjoy to do. I remember when I got introduced to Council ten plus years ago, and you know, it's not forgotten that quickly. So, I really do appreciate that and I know we've got a lot of names to get through tonight, so I do have the pleasure of introducing three of the guys assigned to Unit One. So, with that being said, I'll just get right to it. First, we have Firefighter/EMT Blake Boettcher if you want to come down here Blake. So, Blake grew up in Harrison, Ohio and went to Badin High School. He attended college at Miami University. He was able to get an Associate's Degree and now he is in paramedics school with graduation for that set for the end of April; this spring. So, he'll be able to serve the department in that capacity very soon, which we're excited about. When he's not working, Blake enjoys going to the gym, I don't know if you can tell, and, when he's not at the gym, he's doing anything outdoors. He loves outdoor

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Captain Kuhlmann (continued): activities, and just likes to spend time with his family. So, we're super excited to have Blake on the shift. He does a great job for us and I'll let you say thanks, or whatever you want to do.

Mr. Boettcher: I'd just like to say thank you guys for giving me this opportunity to be part of the City of Springdale, and I'm looking forward to a bright future here. So, thank you guys. I appreciate it. (applause)

Captain Kuhlmann: Next up we have Firefighter/EMT Ryan Hughes. Come on up Ryan. So, Ryan grew up in Kettering Ohio and attended Kettering Fairmount High School and then he attended Heidelberg University which is in northern Ohio, where he received two degrees; one in Psychology, and one in Spanish. He actually did some overseas time in Spain, I think; two years or so. So, pretty interesting stuff. He's also in paramedic school with Blake; same class, so they'll graduate the same time out of school, and be able to serve us in that capacity. So, again, excited about that, and when he's not at work, he really, really, really enjoys football, and watching football, and going to football games. Nothing wrong with that. Also, likes outdoor activities and he also enjoys concerts, but, you know, paramedic school takes up a lot of his time right now; glad to have him here.

Mr. Hughes: Kind of like what Blake (Boettcher) said, I just want to thank everybody in this room.. If it wasn't for everybody and the guys behind me, you guys, this wouldn't be possible. I'm just glad to start my career here, and, retire here. It's just a great place to work at. (applause)

Captain Kuhlmann: So, last for the Unit One guys is Firefighter/EMT Eddie Hess. Eddie grew up in the neighboring town east of us, in Sharonville, and attended Princeton High School. So, Eddie comes to us with 16 years of experience in the fire service, which is kind of unheard of right now. So, we are very, very fortunate to have that knowledge and ability added to our Fire Department right on day one. You really don't get that too much, and he has a great working knowledge of the area around us, which we run with a lot of mutual aid, and so that is just awesome. It's very nice to be able to lean on him and he knows a lot about the fire service, so that's good. And, Eddie (Hess) will be starting paramedic school in the spring, so, that will, again, take up a lot of his time, but, we'll get him through it, and then he'll be able to serve the department in that capacity which we're excited about. When he's not working, Eddie is a family man; loves to spend time with his wife and kids. He likes to go camping, and likes to go to his son's baseball games. So, we're excited to have him and so proud to have all these guys here.

Mr. Hess: I just wanted to say thank you for the opportunity and I'm glad to be a part of the Springdale Fire Department. Thank you. (applause)

Captain Kuhlmann: Thank again for having us. I'll turn it over to Captain Brian Losekamp of Unit Two.

Captain Losekamp: Good evening. Thanks for having us. I've got two personnel to introduce tonight. So, we'll start with Caleb Lusby. So Caleb is a Firefighter/EMT. He is in paramedic school; slated to be done in the spring. He comes to us with one year's experience. He grew up in Cleves, went to Miami Valley Christian for high school, and he enjoys to work out and spend time with family in his free time, and recently got engaged. So, we welcome him. He does a good job on the shift. He's aggressive and brings a lot to the table, and he's always asking questions when he has them. He's a pleasure to have.

Mr. Lusby: I just wanted to thank everyone up here for the opportunity to work here and super excited for the next 30+ years I have at the City of Springdale. (applause)

Captain Losekamp: The second individual is Drew Beck. He is on Unit Two. He is a Firefighter/EMT. He's going to start his paramedic program in 2023 at some point. He comes with us as this is the first job he's worked. His been with us for six months. He started in a part-time capacity, and he's doing a really good job, so, we promoted him to full-time. He

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Captain Losekamp (continued): grew up in Delhi, went to Oak Hills High School. Drew enjoys to work out, skiing in the wintertime, and playing golf in the summer. And, from what I hear, you're pretty good a golf. So, he's a pleasure to have on the shift. He's always asking questions, and does a good job, and, he's aggressive, so, that's what we're looking for.

Mr. Beck: I just want to thank you guys for this opportunity. I'm really excited; first job in the fire service and couldn't have asked for a better place to work for. So, thank you. (applause)

Captain Losekamp: With that, I'll turn it over to Steve Sarver, the Unit Three Captain.

Captain Sarver: Well, I tried to get Captain Losekamp to say, "Saved the best for last", but, he refused to do that (laughter), so, I'll say it myself. So, I've got three individuals that are assigned to Unit Three currently to introduce. First one is Robby Potter. So, Robby is not in paramedic school, he's actually a paramedic. So, Robby has 14 years of experience in the fire service. He came to us from Liberty Township where he was a career firefighter. He also works in Oxford as a Fire Inspector. He's president of the Butler County Fire Investigation Team. He went to Fairfield High School, grew up in Fairfield, has an Associate's Degree in Fire Science through Eastern Gateway Community College. What Robby enjoys doing is spending time with his wife and son outside of work along with his chocolate Labrador, and he also enjoys playing golf despite not being very good at it (laughter). I've golfed with Robby, so I can attest, he's not very good (laughter). Robby also has a baby on the way. So, congratulations. Come on up Robby.

Mr. Potter: First off, I just wanted to say, "Thank you". I look forward to continuing my career here at Springdale and I do want to admit I'm not really good at golf. It is 100% accurate. There's a couple of guys back there that can attest to that too. But, again, appreciate it. Thank you. Look forward to continuing my career here. Thanks again. (applause)

Captain Sarver: The only reason I can say that is because I'm not good at golf either. So, the next individual I'm going to introduce is Alex Weber. So, Alex is a Firefighter/EMT. He's going to start paramedic training in the spring of 2023. He has one year experience. He worked at Springfield Township and also Miami Township in Hamilton County. Grew up in Lima, Ohio and went to Ada High School. He also lived for about a year in Pittsburgh, but he's not a Steelers fan, so we're okay. He attended Ashland University; he has a Bachelor's Degree in Supply Chain Management. He was also a wide receiver for the college football team, and in his time off, he enjoys spending time with his family, hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities. He also has a baby on the way.

Mr. Weber: Just like everybody else, very grateful to be a part of this wonderful organization. I'd like to thank my family, and the support from them; just happy to be here. Thank you. (applause)

Captain Sarver: And, the last individual I have to introduce is David Huckleby. David comes to us from Colerain. He worked there for 18 years. So, another individual with a lot of experience in the fire service. He also worked in Forest Park, grew up in College Hill, went to Aiken High School. He enjoys spending time with his family. He's also a fairly decorated boxer, and enjoys basketball. My understanding is that David has two sets of twins. I don't really have anything funny to say about that. (laughter)

Mr. Huckleby: I just wanted to say thanks to the City of Springdale, the Fire Department for giving me this opportunity and I look forward to a long career here. (applause)

Chief Stanley: So, you see what we saw in the interview process. Great individuals; just a huge infusion of positive energy and appreciation for the job and our Fire Department, which is very refreshing. You know, we lost some experience when some of the older guys retired, so, obviously you lose that institutional knowledge, and the benefits that go along with that, but, you know, the trade-off is you get just the enthusiasm, the hunger to learn a job, learn the City, and just improve and start their career and just do the best job they can. So, we have some gems that we just added to the Fire Department. We're really excited about it, and, again, thank you so much for this opportunity to introduce them to you tonight. (applause)

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Communications

Mrs. McNear: We do have one item from Duke Energy dated November 30, 2022 and it's a notification that they're applying for, surprisingly a decrease in rates to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO). It will be a decrease that results in eleven cents per month (\$.11) for residential customers, so, don't be looking for a check in the mail. I'm not going to read the whole letter, but, if anyone has any questions or if they'd like to see additional information, it will be on file in my office. And that concludes my Communications. Thank you.

Communications from the Audience

Ms. Chapman: I just kind of have a question. My name is Megan Chapman and I'm on Vista Glen. Will there be a time later to address the ordinance for changing communications with Council, or shall I go now?

President Vanover: Well, the next Communication will be post.

Ms. Chapman: Okay. Go now then is what I'm hearing. Give me a second to write this, write my name and address. So, I came prepared with something that I wrote myself, so, if I'm looking at something and I'm reading it, it's my words; I just wanted to collect my thoughts before I spoke to you guys this time because in the past, I have not, and it has not gone well for me, so, here we go. Community participation is a vital part of democracy. I personally have the luxury to attend City Council meetings in person, but, there are others in the community who do not. They are busy working, taking care of their families, or, sometimes life just happens, and they can't make it to the meetings. Or, they're like me, and, sometimes they completely forget that it's Wednesday, and there's a Council meeting. The livestreaming and recording of Council meetings has been a fantastic way to allow for community participation. It allows community members to stay informed, but, it is also a one-way stream of communication. Letters and emails specifically addressed to Council that are civil in tone, and contain information properly identifying an individual as a Springdale resident should have the opportunity to be read aloud at City Council meetings. I know of other local City Councils that allow for proxy communications. In the interest of transparency and accountability, it is vital that some form of public comment be available to all residents of this City, not just those that have the privilege to be here to speak. It is not fair to exclude communications from public record just because an individual's circumstances do not allow for them to attend these meetings in person. Instead of looking for ways to limit participation, you should be looking for ways for to improve and expand it. On another quite frankly related note, I have not felt all that welcome to participate in person at City Council meetings. This evening marks, what I believe is my third time addressing City Council. Both of the previous times I spoke, I distinctly remember hearing someone in the audience behind me say, "If you don't like it here, then move." The last Council meeting that individual doubled-down and told me they would help me move. Just to make sure I wasn't missing something, I went back and watched the last Council meeting. During this exchange, I also heard a member of Council, on microphone saying to, "Let it go". Essentially allowing the heckling to continue. I have come to Council meetings to voice my opinion and ask questions to seek clarification. I am not entirely sure what I have done to deserve the treatment I have received. If I have been out of line, or, disrespectful in any of my communications with Council, I do sincerely apologize. I am human. I make mistakes. I get passionate about some things. But, if I am in the wrong, or I have caused harm, I will always take ownership and try to make it right, because that's what good humans do. The way we treat people matters. My first impressions of how the Council conducts its meetings has not been the greatest. My experience with my neighbors, the school, and the Springdale Community in general have been wonderful. I love it here. More importantly, my family loves it here. We just moved into Springdale this year. My kids have a bunch of friends that they have met through the school, and activities at the Recreation Center. So, to those that tell me to move if I don't like it here, I wish to say, "I am not moving. Sorry, y'all are stuck with me." I am here because I care. I am here because I not only want Springdale to be the best community for my family, but for everybody that lives here. All this being said, I was a bit taken aback to see the new rate structure for the Rec published in the most recent City of Springdale Newsletter. I was under the impression that there was still a little bit of time to debate this change, but, that was clearly my mistake. For those

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Ms. Chapman (continued): Councilmembers that were at the last meeting, I appreciate that you listened and answered the questions I asked. Since that meeting, I've had a lingering feeling that some of the answers that I received from the last meeting were incomplete at best, and misleading at worst. For the record, tax dollars paid by the community for a service provided by the community is not giving it away, or giving away the service. You do not give away the Police and Fire services. They are paid for by our tax dollars, and services provided by the Rec are not given away either. To say otherwise, is misleading. I understand that the Rec may not be a high priority for tax dollars, but, when I asked why this fee restructuring was happening, the only answer that I got was that we can't rewind the clock. But, I really just wanted to know what the catalyst was, like what the specific reason was for this, that put this on the radar and made it a priority. Last meeting, I was asked where I was going to go that's cheaper than the Rec. And, to that, I will give you the honest answer. I don't have to go anywhere. I can go to my house. I have a pool and a treadmill. I don't need childcare at my home. The only service that I use from the Rec is the sports so my kids can play with their friends from school. The whole point of living in a community though is so that we don't have to travel all over the Greater Cincinnati area to have our needs met. Springdale has the potential to be an awesome City. But, that cannot happen if community members are ignored and neglected like the City's infrastructure. My esteemed members of Council, this is what accountability looks like, and if you don't like it, then maybe public service isn't the job for you.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Thank you for coming up. I've always been very kind to you. I think that you would agree to that.

Ms. Chapman: Yes.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I guess that's what I have the problem with is because you start off saying that people were mean to you, and I know that you said it wasn't everybody, and I agree with that, in fact, what you were talking about had nothing to do with a lot of us up here, the one part, so, I'm not even going to address that; that's irrelevant to me, because it has nothing to do with me. At the end, you said if we don't like doing what we want to do, like what we do for this job, that we should go do something else. Isn't that the same thing that you had a problem with somebody saying to you? I'm just being honest. I don't like somebody saying that to me. That's rude. It's real rude. Every single person says, "You need to be nice to me", and I am so nice to other people. Most of us; I can pretty much say across the board people here have always been nice to me. We've always been nice to other people. I keep getting told we're being mean. I have never been rude to anybody, I've never been condescending, or mean to people and then when people come up here, they say this, and this is why people get upset in my position because you're angry; maybe at one or two or three people, but you're taking it out on everybody. And, it's the same thing that you're mad at the people up here for doing, correct? Everyone needs to realize that we're fighting the same fight on both sides. There is no you against us, and us against you. I promise. I don't have any problem with you, I don't have any argument with you. I feel like sometimes when people come up here, it's combative towards us, and we've been kind, and today, I feel like you went up and you were calm and everything was fine, and then you got mad. Why did you get mad at us? We've done nothing wrong. I've just tried to do what I can, which is best for the City. I listen to everybody, I read the emails, I look at my text messages, I listen when people call me just like everybody else does. That's what we're elected to do. Telling me, whether it's you or somebody else that comes up here that I'm not doing my job, that's not nice either. We're trying to be kind people just like everybody else is trying to be kind people. I do thank you for coming up here; it's not easy. I've been in your position. I've come here, I've talked, I've been nervous; it's a nerve-wracking position to be where you are. There is nothing more nervous for me than when I was you coming to Council and having to talk to people who are elected and whatever. It's absolutely intimidating. It's even more intimidating when I'm an elected official and I feel like my hands are tied because no matter what I do, someone's going to call my house, be at my door yelling at me because they're not happy with what I voted for. We have to do whatever we have to do for every single person. I feel the weight of your worries about this stuff because we have to; that is our job. We have to worry about that stuff. It gets more complicated when people try to tell us that we're wrong all the time instead of coming with any kinds of solutions. We're voting tonight on the communications. There's a lot that is in that. There's a lot that needs to be unpacked in that, and I know that there's going to be a lot of discussion, there's going to be a lot that is discussed. We appreciate everything that everybody has to say, but, I think with what you said, I was on

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Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup (continued): board with you and in the end, I thought, "Gosh, why did you have to say, 'If we don't like doing what we do, don't be an elected official.'"

Ms. Chapman: It's not that. I'm sorry, let me just clarify.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Yes, please. Because honestly I felt attacked.

Ms. Chapman: It's if you're open to being held accountable.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: By whom? By everybody?

Ms. Chapman: By the general public.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Okay, that's fine. We are accountable every single day, whether we're making a decision, whether we're voting or whether we're not. Every single day I am accountable to every single person in Springdale. Even though I am just for my district; it doesn't matter. When I vote for you, she is in my district. I vote for her. I vote for him, I vote for me, I vote for every single person. The weight of Springdale is on every single one of us. We're trying to do the best we can. If people are going to be angry at us for trying to do the best we can, and we're not allowed to be human because somebody voted for us? Because somebody felt like you are the person who will be my voice, and then they don't even speak to us? Instead they speak around us and they get angry when we didn't vote the way they wanted us to vote. My phone number has been published many, many times. My address; my everything. It's on the website; it's everywhere. Anybody can get a hold of any of us. Sadly, I get more information from somebody saying, "Did you hear what was posted on social media? No one ever, by the time it comes to me, it's already been on social media first, so it's already escalated to a frenzy before we even know there's a problem. If people would come to the elected officials before it becomes a big problem like when it first is. If you would have come to me and said, "Hey Megan, let's talk about this". You better believe that I would make time for you and I'd say, "Let's sit down and let's talk about the rates, or let's talk about this. Let's talk about how it got there". But, it doesn't. It gets to a powder keg situation. And, all of the sudden, everybody is mad, and angry, and it's a problem. Not everything in the City needs to be a problem. We can literally work together as we have up here before in the past and with people in the City. We can do that all the time, but, we have to be allowed. Both people need to be willing to open their ears. Just because I don't agree with what somebody tells me how I should vote, doesn't mean I'm a bad person; it means I'm looking ten to 20 years in the future as Springdale, long after I'm not up here anymore. I don't plan on being here for term, after term, after term; period. That's not what I think I'm up here for. I think I'm here to do what I'm supposed to do and hope that it makes tomorrow better. But, if people are tying our hands today, we can't make tomorrow better. You have to trust us a little bit. I'm willing to go this far, as I hope people are willing to come this far to us. I don't think you meant ill will. I think that you just took, in my opinion, you took that sentence a little too far, because I was like, "I'm with you." I feel unity, I feel that you're saying, "Let's come together". Cool. And then, to become divisive in the same sentence isn't helping anybody, just like it wouldn't help if we did it up here. We cannot be divisive. We have to come together and find a way to make this work for everybody. And, it's much more than just communication. I'm not, if you email me, there's nothing that keeps that from being a public record. Anybody can request any emails that are about the City that are sent to my City email, or whatever, so, by you saying that when we don't read it out loud, it's not public record, that's not true. It's just not true. So, if somebody, if you were to email, that is a public record. And, if somebody wanted to request that, they could, and they could request anything that we send in reply as well. So that everybody has the same information. It's hard because you can't at all times have every single person in Springdale know every single thing that's been asked because you may email me about something, and I answer you, and nobody even knows it happens, so then not everybody knows that this is happening. There's no way that every single time somebody emails us or asks us a question that we could put it out there and let everybody in the City know about it at all times. It just can't happen. We do the best we can and we're, I know I'm always willing to do new things, and try new things, and evolve. But, my personal opinion is it needs to be everybody evolving together; Council, Administration, citizens, everybody. We all have to work together to make this work.. If we're constantly fighting, nothing will ever get done; ever. Because it's going to be a vicious cycle of yuck. That's just my opinion. Thanks.

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Mr. Hawkins: Again, Ms. Chapman, thank you for coming out. Community input is important. It's always been important. You can tell by the way that we have things set up with the agenda where we have two opportunities for folks to give input. You can tell by the fact that there's numerous ways to contact elected officials that it's important. I think where there's a little bit of disconnect in some people's opinions in terms of the ordinance we're going to talk about is around giving input to Elected Officials, and Administration versus someone publicizing their opinion on something. And, so those are two different things. You talked about having a one or more not fun experiences coming to Council, and I'm sorry that is how you feel or that you experienced that. Here's the reality. The ordinance that we have here has taken place in terms of discussion and has been raised over the last month or so as a result of discourse in communication from folks coming into Council. Make no mistake about it, everybody wants to have input. We have just under now, just under 11,000 people in the City of Springdale, and we want input. And, the reality is, you've come to meetings, you've seen; there's not a whole lot of input. You could sit there and watch meetings going back years and years, two different opportunities for people to speak. On most Council meetings, nobody gets up and says anything, right? So, the input is important. Everybody up here has had phone calls with regard to things that come up, but, still, it's not an inundation of 50 calls a day or anything like that. So, when there's input, it's genuine when people say, "We appreciate your input. We appreciate you coming through and taking the time." Whether it's that someone calls, texts, emails, or they come here in person. Folks are happy to answer questions and take input. You may say, "Hey, did you think about this when you were dealing with this ordinance? I have an idea about one thing or another." Love to have any of that. The reality with regard to the ordinance that's going to be talked about is really about, in my opinion, for me three things. One, it's about having orderly discussions when folks come in, being efficient in those discussions, and three, being consistent. And, that's important because if people don't feel we're being consistent, then they feel like something's not fair. And, we get that. And so, really this is about trying to see if we can, in my opinion, manage those things and come out with something that's going to work. But, this ordinance does not limit your access, or any of the other 11,000 people's access to anyone on this dais, the Administration. It's not going to do that. It's just the difference of if somebody's viewpoint, opinion, or question is going to be publicized to the masses. And, it's not about censorship or trying to say, "Hey, I don't want you." There's other ways to go through and do that. It's about the efficiency of running these meetings and going through this. And, again, for the 11,000 people, all of us, I say "we" have to be mindful of we're spending money every time we have a meeting, right? We have specialists that are here that are getting paid extra to be here, we have folks still working overtime to be here. We're paying for this. We've got folks running details for us for security. So, to just say we're going to have a bunch of people come in and not even address the dais on things they have an issue on, and they just want to talk about other stuff that is important for their main objective is to publicize their feelings about something to the general public, there's other ways for them to go through and do that versus coming in here and saying, "Hey, Lawrence, I've got a suggestion for 'X', or I've got a question about 'Y'." That's really what we're here for. But, you can call, text, email, at any point in time, and you will be heard, and there's seven Council members, you've got a Clerk of Council/Finance Director, and you've got the Mayor, and then you've got the Administration. And, some of that's for the ability for you to contact, call, whoever you feel comfortable with. You may call seven people, or email seven people. You may just call one or two. Not just you, it's a collective "you" that has the ability to do that. I think you've heard multiple times from different people. I'm happy to talk with you anytime you want to about whatever it is. If you've got a question, or a concern, feel free; call me anytime. But, this ordinance and this discussion that has been going on for the last month or so really is not about anybody wanting to keep somebody from being able to talk about anything or limit them their access, but, it's more about what's the fairest way to go about this so everybody gets treated the same way, and, you know, when someone does come here, they can come and do it in a way that they're going to feel comfortable and it's going to be orderly. You should not feel that you or anybody else is being limited to be able to talk with Council or anybody at the dais or in the Administration. That door is open; it's not closing whether it's you coming in here, and, I understand, you have family to go manage, you have work, what have you, and, so, there's easier ways to go through and do it. You don't have to show up on Wednesday night to be heard. You can call, text, say, "Hey Lawrence, what are you guys going to talk about on the agenda?" Or, "What did you guys vote on this?" So, you have some different opportunities. I just want to make sure you know that. Thank you Mr. President.

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Mr. Jacobs: As plenty have said, I know it's tough to take the podium like you have tonight. I think you did a great job. I didn't take anything you said personally because I know when you've addressed this body, I've respected you, and I've reacted to your comments and your statements. I also want to mention, obviously, like, she spoke for maybe five minutes. Council has taken more than three minutes tonight responding to you. I've looked at the ordinance, I understand your frustration. I want people to understand that I think this, taking the podium, is a higher form of citizenship. It's tough. I think we've done not the best job ever being welcoming to people who bring critiques, whether it be to Administration or to Council. But, sometimes it's about misunderstandings. And, that can be frustrating for us. For example, with the fee structure, the members of Council didn't have control over that. But, the average person in the public didn't know that. And, so, it was addressed to all of us when, in reality, that wasn't the true situation. So, we could do a better job educating. I think we could be more welcoming to folks. The whole point of this is there's a podium there for a reason; for people to come in and if they want to lob "bombs", I think it's our responsibility as elected officials to be above that fray. I don't care about keyboard warriors. I don't care what people say about me as an elected official. I put my name on the ballot, and people are allowed to criticize me. And, so, I want us to be above the fray. I think that's more than a fair expectation of anybody up here. And, the last thing I'll mention is that I hope that whether it's frustration with the fee schedule, or whatever brought you here tonight, that you take that frustration and focus on going forward, because there's going to be a different Rec Center, and we all want it to be the best. I've said it before, I'll say it as many times as I need to say it. Everybody wants the best Rec Center possible. And, so, I hope you take whatever frustration you still have, and just look at going forward. And, keep being engaged, and I'll do my best to make sure that we're as welcoming as possible when people take the mic. Thank you.

Mr. Anderson: I know a lot has been said about this comment already, but there was one part that I did want to comment on. Because, it broke my heart. I wasn't at the last meeting, and I did watch it shortly after. It was hard to watch. And, I think a lot of that is things that we could do better as a body. And, I just want to recognize that. It was very difficult to watch and not just because emotions were high or there was critiques that could have been handled differently. It was hard to watch because there was so much cross talk that was happening in the audience, from the dais, to the people, and I do want to recognize that that's a problem, and it's not something that's addressed in this ordinance, but it is something that Council is in power to address. Managing the decorum of the room is important. And, I think what we saw in that meeting, at least what I saw, was not acceptable. And, having you come back here and tell us that you weren't welcome, it breaks my heart, and I'm sorry that you had that experience. I'm always available for these comments. I go out of my way to respond. It's just hard when people come in and want to talk to us, I feel like they should be welcomed; even if they want to critique us. So, I just wanted to say that I heard that part of the comment. I don't think we responded to that as a body yet, and I think we need to. I don't think that will be tonight, but I do think that it is our responsibility either with the gavel or as the body as a whole to make sure that it's clear that when people are at the dais addressing Council, that that's the expectation and we've talked about rules for that that you're talking to the body, but that also means that as an audience member there's a responsibility to listen or at least be quiet. If that person has the floor; they have the floor for as long as they're entitled to it, and we should not be telling people to move because we don't like their opinions. That is completely unacceptable, and I would encourage that if that happens again that that gets immediately addressed. Thank you.

President Vanover: Thank you.

Ms. Morgan: Hi, I'm Victoria Morgan. There's always a reason why I feel lead. I've been missing for a long time, but I'm on top of everything that's going on. So, for me coming up tonight is for what she just said, and, for what you just addressed. It isn't right when the audience has something to say, no matter who you are, you should not attack a resident. It is hard coming up here, you know, speaking when you are out and about. No matter if you are a family member, we should all be kind to one another. What I just saw is unacceptable, and there's always a reason why I'm here, and that's what I wanted to say. When I ran for City Council, that was one of the things that I thought should be addressed was that particular situation that I just saw; unacceptable. So, that's all I wanted to say.

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Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance No. 34-2022

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CLERK OF COUNCIL/FINANCE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CT CONSULTANTS FOR ADDITIONAL DESIGN ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATED TO THE INCLUSION OF A SHARED USE PATH FOR THE NORTHLAND BOULEVARD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Mr. Anderson made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 34-2022; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded.

Ordinance No. 34-2022 passes with six affirmative votes. (Mr. Ramirez was absent)

Ordinance No. 38-2022

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 30 OF THE SPRINGDALE CODE OF ORDINANCES GOVERNING PROCEDURES AT CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

President Vanover: This is a second reading. We did have some additions from the last to this, so, we'll go from here.

Mr. Jacobs: My first question is just total procedural before we charge ahead with this. And part of the comments have already said. As President of Council, it's my understanding that that gavel can be used to establish decorum, and that decorum doesn't matter in terms of what's being said at a podium or what's being said anywhere else, and, so, after the last meeting, I think a lot of us felt frustration as how can we avoid that ever happening again. I think at the end of the day, it's not about language. There's no language in here about that, but we have to establish decorum. It cannot be acceptable. I don't know what world where it's acceptable, where a citizen comes up to that podium, critiques Council, and they're heckled by the crowd. There's no world where that should be okay. We can't be okay with it, but it all rests with the gavel, and, so, I think we need to establish that we're going to create decorum in this room. It has to be that going forward because some of these problems are because of that issue. And, so, that's my first comment. My second comment is I'd like the body to consider a change of language in 30.05, Section (L), the additional time grant of three minutes. I'd like to suggest that we change anything after *"by the President of Council, or an affirmative vote of a majority of Council"* to *"a member of Council"*. If a resident hits that podium and one of us Elected Officials wants to hear more, I don't think it should take four votes. We've been elected to take these seats, and whoever hits that podium is one of our constituents. And, I trust all my fellow members of Council to be able to say, "Give them a few more minutes." Because, as we just saw, the resident spoke for maybe five; Council responded at least seven, eight, ten minutes. So, I'm not worried about time. We want accountability; we don't want somebody to filibuster what this body is doing as Mr. Hawkins said. We have to be pragmatic. The podium could be abused, but I'd like to see any member of Council be able to extend that time. I also have a micro-concern about the word *"entitled to speak"* as I mentioned before the meeting began. When the resident hits the podium, does the clock start? Who's counting the time? And, what I don't want to see is that a resident walks up there, talks for 45 seconds, asks a question, and then one of us responds and eats up the three minutes. I think we have to be clear to residents how that's going to play out, because we're creating a specificity here, and that specificity is three minutes. If I'm up there, I want to know when does the clock start? If Mr. Jacobs interrupts me with a question, is that eating my time? I don't think it should eat the time. I think it should be three minutes to speak, not three minutes of our time, and that's not in the ordinance, unless we say it is, at least in my opinion. The other items I don't notice in Section (M) where it says, *"the letter will be distributed to members of Council"*. It doesn't say *"Administration"*. I don't think we should assume that, unless everybody up here is comfortable with assuming that. So, I thought that was kind of missing, and then I had a suggestion from a resident. This is my final of the three points I wanted to bring up. A resident suggested as a middle ground, if a resident wants to address Council and they can't be here, they send an email. I agree with Mr. Hawkins that this body isn't then required to be the megaphone for that email. I think that's perfectly logical, but, I think a middle ground could be that that email is published in the minutes, and I think that avoids grandstanding. I think it is a way where whatever that citizen expresses does end up in a record for everybody to see without the

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Mr. Jacobs (continued): grandstanding element that could be abused by sending the email. So, those are my three suggestions. I want to clarify the three minutes; I think any member of Council should be able to extend time. I'd like to see Administration added to the language as well. Thank you.

President Vanover: Well, I want to cut in here. Because, there's something, I'm a bit confused myself. Mr. Braun, we had looked at a, well, basically addressing the decorum section, well, on mine it was Section 3, 30.05 (N) that spells out *"The President of Council, or other presiding officer, reserves the right to rule out of order disruptive, threatening, profane, abusive, slanderous, or otherwise unprofessional conduct of any Council Member or meeting participant that impedes the orderly conduct of the meeting. Any person determined by the President of Council, or other presiding officer, to be violating this rule, or engaging in conduct defined in R.C. §2917.12 which obstructs or interferes with the ability of Council to conduct the meeting, may be ordered to cease engaging in the offending conduct, and if they continue may be removed from the meeting by the President of Council, or other presiding officer."*

Mr. Braun: I was under the impression that that had been circulated to Council. As you will recall I read that in the last meeting as a suggested amendment to be included in it, and it was in my copy, but, my copy might be different than your copy. So, yes, as a result of incidents that could occur and have occurred at the past few Council meetings, I was suggesting that 30.05(N) be included with the language that you just read as part of this ordinance that governs procedures at Council meetings. One other point I wanted to make, and I don't know, do other members of Council have that typed out? I'm happy to read that again if you want to hear the language. Would you like me to read that again a little slower?

(Unidentified individual off mic): I would like to hear it.

(Another unidentified individual off mic): Yes, please.

Mr. Braun: Again, I apologize. It read, the proposed language is 30.05 (N), it would be Section 3. *"The President of Council, or other presiding officer, reserves the right to rule out of order disruptive, threatening, profane, abusive, slanderous, or otherwise unprofessional conduct of any Council Member or meeting participant that impedes the orderly conduct of the meeting. Any person determined by the President of Council, or other presiding officer, to be violating this rule, or engaging in conduct defined in R.C. §2917.12 which obstructs or interferes with the ability of Council to conduct the meeting, may be ordered to cease engaging in the offending conduct, and if they continue may be removed from the meeting by the President of Council, or other presiding officer."* That's the language that I had proposed be amended and included in the resolution. And, I might also suggest Councilmember Jacobs had suggested that questions that are asked by members of Council should not count against a speaker. If that is the will of Council, I would propose adding to 30.05(L) an additional sentence which reads, *"This time shall not be inclusive of questions asked of speakers."* That way it will be clear in the future to future Councils that questions don't count for the three minutes.

Mayor Webster: Do you want to take any action on his motion first, or not?

President Vanover: Well, I think that we've got enough that needs to be addressed that we will continue with the discussion. I think for the benefit of everybody here, that then we will do another reading with the amendments in it so that everybody has a chance to read it and see it.

Mayor Webster: The reason for my light was I had a question for Mr. Jacobs. You bring up emails. Don't you think that's covered when it's a citizen's correspondence? It doesn't specify it has to be a letter. Couldn't that be interpreted as a letter or email?

Mr. Jacobs: My comment wasn't intended to differentiate between the two. My point is if a citizen contacts us in whatever format, what we're saying is we have a consistent policy, which I think a lot of us are on board, we either read letters or we don't, and there's a lot of logic to not reading the letters. I don't know any opposition to that, but, my point is if they send

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Mr. Jacobs (continued): a communication, couldn't we reach a middle ground that then we just throw it in to the minutes, but I'm not sure that's what you're asking about. I didn't differentiate between letter or email, or, I didn't intend to with my comments.

Mayor Webster: So, you're not suggesting that we read that email?

Mr. Jacobs: No, I never said that.

Mayor Webster: Alright, because somebody sends an email, you really don't know who it came from.

Mr. Jacobs: I feel like we all kind of reached agreement on that. And, I don't want to speak for others. I'm saying that in past discussions, I've said that it's not our mission as this body to be the megaphone for every email that's sent. I've said that multiple times. So, I'm not, like I said, my goal is just to find a middle ground. Resident sends an email, no we're not going to read it; but, why not throw it into the minutes. That doesn't cost a dime, and it avoids any possible grandstanding. Like I said, just me trying to find a middle ground.

Mrs. Ghantous: My questions are of a very practical nature. So, who would be the timekeeper, and how would they be keeping time? And, then it says, "they can be granted additional time", so, we give them a 30 second warning, and they say, "No, wait a minute, I don't think I'm going to be done in 30 seconds, I think I need another minute. Can you guys vote if I can have another minute?" I'm trying to see, you know, I'm just imaging how it will play out and then we stop and we vote, "Yes, you can have another minute." And then, people are talking, and then we do want to engage with the person more, and that's going to take some more time. It seems like there is going to be a problem keeping that "30 seconds and you're out of here", you know? How would that work? They could get some more time, and we would vote. I'm just playing it out like it's a movie. I'm trying to think somebody's speaking, and...

President Vanover: Let me say this. It's up to the President, the presiding officer first. They can decide "Yes, we will allow more", "No, we won't".

Mrs. Ghantous: At that moment, so, three minutes is up, and then you're going to say, "yay" or "nay".

President Vanover: Right. They can say, "I've got a couple of more points." Okay, well how long? Is it another five minutes? Is it another two minutes? We can make that arrangement.

Mrs. Ghantous: So, we wouldn't be necessarily voting. It would just be on a case by case basis.

President Vanover: Right. Right. And, as far as the timing goes, A, that's something that we're going to work out. Quite honestly, I told Mr. Jacobs, it can be as simple as a three minute egg timer. The old hourglass that you set. It's a visual; everybody sees it, and go, you know, we don't have to get elaborate timing systems or whatever. I mean, at some point, if we re-do the mics and that stuff, then, you know, maybe work it in or we come up with a more simple solution, that's fine. But, I don't think it's too difficult. Probably the timekeeper will be one of two people right here in the middle; either Mrs. McNear, which I rely on her or on myself; I'm the presiding officer. Because my first and foremost job is to run the meeting. And, if you have spent any time at all, you know that I'm the last to speak usually. And that's because of that. I'm not here to first call or interact. I have that voice, but my first responsibility is run the meeting. That's what this 30.05(N) gives me definitions and a process. Not picking on anybody, but, I had my ears chewed because I didn't gavel down. I didn't have rules to gavel down. What do you gavel down when there's no procedure to do that short of, you know, fisticuffs or whatever, I mean, we have officers present here, but, this is everybody is wanting procedure, and, you know, even the playing field, and that's what this, my drive for this is. We define, you know, how it's going to be treated, we define what is acceptable and not acceptable, and that's, you know, from this point going forward.

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Mr. Hawkins: A couple of things. One, picking up from some different amendments to this. I like going down into that 30.05(M) and making sure that we state that the items shall be distributed to Council and Administration just so that it's in there. Not to say that it wouldn't be. Usually the Administration is going to get it initially, but it's good to spell that out in there. I think it's been sort of discussed, but the idea of adding the 30.05(N) language in and having another reading for us all to see that firsthand with how they interact with that would be good. On 30.05(L), I think it's also important to add in there a sentence at the end that indicates that "The Communications from the Audience shall or All Communications from the Audience shall be addressing the dais only." So that it's clear that if someone comes here, they're coming here to speak to the Elected Officials, or the Administration with whatever issues, questions they have. But, I would like to see that language added in there. Along the lines of some of the discourse we've had in terms of keeping in order and President Vanover's last comments, I think there's a dichotomy and it's important in the last two, three meetings that we've had, and people have talked about what's been said at the dais, and folks have talked about what's been said in the audience, and, it's important from the President's standpoint there have been some limits in what we don't have with regard to what's said from the podium. I think some of what you're hearing, Mr. Vanover, in terms of some critical comments, constructive criticism, is around the audience. So, I think the President is always empowered to control the audience. We've got the podium. It's important that the person that comes to the podium has the opportunity to speak, and, so, that's one thing. And, there was some talk over, I think, the last couple of meetings from folks reading letters, whatever else where there's been some people saying, "They should have gavelled the person at the podium." I don't think that was necessarily the case. We didn't have legislation to monitor that. But, we always have the ability to monitor and manage folks in the audience if they're talking or talking over an individual. We've had that issue from different factions at different times. So, again, in terms of fairness, because whoever is speaking up there, and they may have a different viewpoint than somebody else, but, we want to make sure that person's protected to speak uninterrupted. So, I think Robert's Rules, whatever else, I think the President (of Council) is always in power with regard to that in terms of making sure everybody else in the gallery is allowing that person to speak. I think, overall, we're moving in a positive direction. I'm happy to see that. I think it's going to be good for the City, because it's going to be good for the folks that are on the dais, and running the meeting, and I think with a couple of those changes, with regard to 30.05, add the Administration 30.05(L), making sure that all comments are to the dais, adding the 30.05(N) with regard to some additional language for the President to manage. I am in favor of the idea, as Mr. Jacobs indicated empowering Council to be able to extend somebody else's time. I think the way that President Vanover has described the idea of, you know, someone's time runs out, how much more time do you need so it's not just an endless thing, but there's an expectation there, I think is an appropriate way to go about it. I also like the idea of there being visual cues for everybody. Again, that's sort of a fairness thing so that there's not a "Well, I only got two and a half. I feel like I got cheated in this". So, if there's a visual cue, that's great; whether it's something that goes up on the board, or it's an egg timer, or it's an hourglass, I think that's an excellent idea as well. Thank you.

Mayor Webster: A couple of things. The hourglass answers Mrs. Ghantous' first question. Second question is how do we go about extending the time. I would think that I think that's covered pretty well in here and first off, the officer in charge has the first responsibility to do that, and, if he's unreasonable and say, "No, you don't get any more time", I would think that if any member of Council disagrees with that, that they hit the button and it's debated on whether "Okay, this person should get some more time" or not. So, I think, but, let's face it, how many times have we wanted to quash somebody at that podium? I look back over the years, maybe a handful of times somebody gets up here about nonsensical stuff and it's not directed to the dais, like Mr. Hawkins just suggested. It's just rambling on and on, or they're here to promote or self-promote an event that benefits themselves, or Mr. Battaglia wants to take us to task on the Goldfish swim, I mean, that was a fiasco. In that case, Mr. Vanover just arbitrarily put a three minute time limit on him thank goodness, or he'd probably still be up here talking. But, I mean, so, we're talking few and far between that this would be invoked. I think, if somebody is up there making good common sense, that whoever is in charge of the gavel is not going to gavel them down. If they need more time, you give it to them. But, somebody is up there, like I said, self-promoting, nonsensical, the man with the gavel has the authority to gavel them down. If there's somebody on Council that disagrees, then you can give them a little time.

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Mr. Jacobs: These are micro decisions. First, I'm glad we're going to be having a second reading because I've only been here for about a year. I'm not a big fan of changing language and then voting that night. It's not that I can't walk and chew gum at the same time, it's just I choose not to when I can. Especially when we're going to do something that could affect our residents. But, a micro question; the way the ordinance is read, it has to be a vote to extend time unless the Chair does it. A few minutes ago, it was said that it wouldn't always be a vote. Unless Chair extends the time, it has to be a vote, and that why, and I understand the Mayor's points, but, every member up here was chosen by those folks, and I don't know any of us that would let somebody ramble on, but, if somebody genuinely walks up there, and they can't get their thoughts out in three minutes, and either their District Rep or an At-Large Rep thinks they should have more time, to me it doesn't have to be complicated. We could simply say, "Mr. President, I request that this speaker gets one more minute." I also acknowledge that as the President, he can decide how many minutes. If he extends the time, I have no concern if he picks 30 seconds or a minute; there's the power right there. And, I also want to interject a quick question to Mr. Braun, because I'm still troubled by this extra language because, in my head, based on what we saw at the last meeting, the power was already there because, at a certain point the podium was no longer used to address Council; it was used to address members of the audience. To me that's a violation of decorum, it's a violation of good order. I was very frustrated at that meeting because I didn't think any extra power was needed. When the person at the podium starts talking to other members of the audience, that's out of order. And then I'll turn it into a question; is it not, Mr. Braun?

Mr. Braun: What I will say about that is I think Robert's Rules of Order does give certain powers of the presiding Officer to run the meeting. I think the reason that we need though, the language that we're talking about, is that you never want to see that power executed arbitrarily, or inconsistently and I think that the language that we're proposing and that we'll see in the third reading will make sure that it's not arbitrarily enforced. I also think I heard at least two members of this Council say they were frustrated by what they saw. Well, this will give you the ability to say, "Mr. President you have the power to do that. It's profane, it's threatening, you know, whatever". And, so, I think it's very clear, but, you're right. I think Robert's Rules of Order gives you a certain amount of discretion to do that, and I think these amendments will take care of that. The only other thing I wanted to make clear is, just remind you I guess, is that we would, I would request that someone make a motion at some point, when you're ready, to have a third reading with the proposed amendments. And then, the last thing I wanted to point out is to Mr. Jacob's point about whether there should be a vote or how that would work. Someone asked; I don't think it was Mr. Jacobs, how that would work. I've seen it twice in my 22 years of doing municipal work where, as the Mayor said, they refused to give someone additional time to speak because the President of Council wanted to shut somebody down, but yet a member of Council wanted it heard. Both times, everybody else said, "Yes, go ahead and give them the time." I would remind you though that you have to empower the presiding officer to have certain powers to run the meeting. And then, if they fail to do it the way the remaining members of Council want, that's when Council gets to act to say, "Yes, go ahead, we'll let the ship pass through". So, I would just remind you of that. That's the reason it's written the way that it is. I think anytime you start giving every single member of Council the ability to run the meeting, I think you open it up for potentials of it unraveling. But, I think this has that safeguard of, "Okay, we don't like what the President of Council did, we'll just vote to go ahead and allow it". That's the only reason it's worded that way, but, obviously you have the power to do it how you want.

Mr. Anderson: I have a different topic question. Did we finish that out? You can come back to me if there was other comments on that first. Should I go ahead?

President Vanover: Yes, go ahead please.

Mr. Anderson: I had a question about, oh, first, thank you for those clarifications. That's exactly what I was looking for in terms of Robert's Rules of Order. It's already enshrined, and the reminders that Mr. Braun gave I think are excellent. Thank you for that. The question I have is around 30.05(M) when we're talking about correspondence. I feel like I got two different answers during the discussion about what constitutes correspondence. Some of this language seems very directed towards physical mail; physical letters when you start talking about return mail addresses; signed messages. In the digital age, we talk about keyboard warriors. Is email, text, and correspondence all treated the same way in this section? I'd hate for people who are

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Mr. Anderson (continued): comfortable communicating with email to be excluded from contacting us using these same methods. Is email/text still considered return mail addresses and signed as long as they are electronically signed, or do we need to address that separately?

Mr. Braun: Mr. Uhl just pointed out to me that I think we can solve that problem. It's intended to address all. And, again, I'm not the best when it comes to drafting for the modern age, but, if you take the word "mailing" out, I think it solves your problem; if just says, "return address". That would apply to email, solid address; anything.

Mr. Anderson: And, to be clear, just so we have it, that we're all on the same page for that, when we talk about signatures, in that case, and return address. So, a return email address would be just as valid as, or are we expecting residents to type a physical address in their email too?

Mr. Braun: I think "address" could be an email address. Any signed citizen correspondence containing a return".

Mr. Anderson: So, that opens the question about "citizen". We use the word "citizen" in red ink.

Mr. Braun: We did intend to use, actually now that you're mentioning that, I think our point was to verify that they're a resident.

Mr. Anderson: Right.

Mr. Braun: That they're a resident, or that we knew who they were.

Mr. Anderson: Well, I think it's important. Maybe we need to address that language.

Mr. Braun: Why don't we look at that language, and, I understand the intent you're talking about. In the next iteration that we send around, I will try to address that to say that "correspondence should include a means to verify or communicate back". We'll come up with something.

Mr. Anderson: And, I would like, and maybe it's an Administrative policy then that would come after that. That's fine for the language that we're talking about for the ordinance. But, I feel like we might need an Administrative policy to go with that, especially as the Clerk moves into an Administrative role after next year. I'd hate for communications from residents to get lost because they didn't know the rules or the secret word to use inside that email, so, if we're going to keep it broad like this to be all inclusive, to be more open to communications, I'd like to see at least a commitment from Administration and the Clerk in the meanwhile that if they receive a letter that isn't properly formatted, that it won't just get "black-holed", right? Especially if it seems like they're trying to communicate, you know what I'm saying? I feel like there needs to be something, policy-wise to go along with the ordinance. If somebody didn't write their address and email, and we want a physical address to verify they're a resident, we should have a practice to verify, not just ignore it. At least that's what I would like to see happen. If we're not going to do that, then I can't support the ordinance, because I want to make sure we're open to those types of new rules does that make sense?

President Vanover: Well, and I'll...

Mr. Anderson: Yes, and that's for discussion. That's not a decree; I'm curious.

President Vanover: That their part of that is getting into the anonymous letters, and quite honestly, I don't give a whole lot of credence to that, because, if it is important, then it then gives us a way of reaching back out, what do you do, you know, go to your Facebook page and say, "Well whoever sent me this letter...". I think that we're all, whether it's email, text, written, I think we've all reached the knowledge level at, "Okay, this is important to me, I will identify". People come in, we ask them to sign in and put their name down. So, if it comes in as an anonymous letter, I think it gets treated just as that. Because how much time, effort,

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President Vanover (continued): and money are we going to be spend running this down? Are we going to call NextStep and have them run the IP number down? I think there's a point where we have given them six lanes to get to us. And, if they want to be on the shoulder on the curb, then there's not much we can do. I understand. I'm not trying to cut anybody out, but, if you took the time to write the letter, but then didn't put your name on it that I can reach back out, and I've had three or four this year about that. It becomes "resident of Springdale". What am I supposed to do with it? I do take the time to open it and read it, but, what action do I take?

Mr. Anderson: And, I understand that. I guess, it seems like it's, at times, inconsistent. I'm trying to think through the scenarios we've had in Communications in practice in the past. I take your point about "anonymous". I guess I also look at, in some cases, Administration has responded to requests from anonymous emails, "concerned citizen of whatever", even though there wasn't a physical address in that. And, in other cases, like Mr. Haugh's letter, I know there was a comment several meetings ago where we weren't even sure if we were going to respond to that letter because he only signed his name and didn't put his address on it; his physical address. It had a return email address, and it had a name. So, I guess, and I'm not being critical; I'm not trying to look to the past and say, "Gosh, wag your finger at it". I want to make sure we're clear going forward how we're going to handle it so it's done consistently because that's what we're trying to do, and maybe it's not just in this ordinance; maybe it's something that goes along with the ordinance. If a policy doesn't make sense, maybe it's something that this Council can do as part of the PR subcommittee to create a job aid or a "how to guide" that we can put on the front page of the website "So you want to contact your Administrators" or "You want to send a letter". Just know that in order for you to get a response, include these things, right? Because unless you happen to dial in and tune in at this meeting, I don't know that everyone would assume that if I sent an email or a text that I have to sign my text message with my physical address. I want to make sure that those forms of communication are open for people that are comfortable doing that. I know I've gotten way more text messages and emails than I have physical mail. I've gotten some of each, but, it's exponentially different. All of those comments, I feel, are valuable. I've gotten good and I've gotten some of those anonymous letters of "Man you're a slob.", or "What are you thinking?" We've had some of those read at this Council meeting. So, I understand that. I was just wondering if there was a way that we could make it clearer for the residents. And, I appreciate the language change. Maybe we could look at that. I'm glad to hear electronic communication is treated the same way, but, I would like for this body to do something to make it clear to residents how to get their response that they're looking for. Because, I don't think it's clear.

President Vanover: Well, I mean, we've got the web page, we can outline, you know, a one paragraph procedure. We post our email addresses, we post our phone numbers. To me, you put that there, that's probably the common environment that, you know, they can get to, then we do that and just say, "Effective whatever day we pass this Ordinance No. 39 or whatever, (Ordinance No.) 38, then it is here's the change".

Mr. Anderson: But, we would expect, if we pass this as written, or as will be amended, we will expect, as a body, that an email and a text message, if they want a response, they need to include their physical address at the end of that message? Is that what we're saying?

President Vanover: Mr. Braun?

Mr. Anderson: Because contact information isn't, right? Contact information, a text is a respond text and emails are response email. A physical letter needs physical mail.

Mr. Braun: As a procedural matter, I just want to remind everyone this only relates to citizen correspondence received by the Clerk. So, anyone can still text a Councilmember anonymously, email a Councilmember anonymously. This is only official correspondence that is received by the Clerk, and how that's handled under Communications during the meeting. So, this has no impact on the ability of residents to anonymously contact any of you or that it's going to fall into an abyss if they email a member of Council. This is only official correspondence that goes in this case to Mrs. McNear to be "read" at a Council meeting. This is the criteria under which and how they'll be handled. We will go ahead though and address, as you pointed out, I think it's a valid point. We want to make sure if there's some way of verifying or information as

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Mr. Braun (continued): to who the author is, we'll come up with some language and we'll insert that in there, but, I did want to remind everyone so we don't get off the path. This is only limited in "(M)" correspondence that is sent to the clerk.

Mrs. McNear: I just would like to put out there that I would like to see physical address whatever the communication would be. Because, we're not going to address the letters that are coming from someone who lives outside of Springdale. This is for us to take care of the Springdale issues. Now, letters would still be read. Like, I read tonight the letter from Duke. This is informational to everyone who lives here. But, I think it's important that we know, are we dealing with a resident or not? Sometimes we get things from anonymous people. In this world that we live in today, where communication is pretty quick, easy, and simple, it's really easy to hide behind the anonymity of social media and throw whatever out there that people want to throw out there; be it true or not; you can't respond to those things. Especially in the positions that we have up here. Now, I know Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup talked about people being angry down there, people being angry up here. For the most part, people up here will not say anything, because they're trying to be respectful to people in the audience. There are times we're plenty angry because, you know what? We signed up for this, so we have to take a lot of guff that people out there who want to say things whether it's true or not don't have to. Our families didn't sign up for that. You know, everybody up here is up here because we love this City too. And, we have devoted our time, decades of our life in some cases. We didn't start up here. We didn't have a coup, and we just said, "This is my desk, I'm going to be here." You know, we started ground roots in this City. We worked on SOS (Springdale Offering Support), we volunteered our time, we worked on PTA, we've been coaches. We've done all of these things like people that are coming up in this City are doing and that's great. We need people to continuously move up and perhaps they have aspirations to be up here, but there's a way to do it. But, we have to work together. Let's face it, we are not Washington, we are not Columbus; we are your neighbors. You see us at the store, we are the same people who went through Princeton School District, we sent our kids through the Recreation Center, we've been coaches, we've been your neighbors. You're going to run into us at the grocery store. Let's afford each other respect, and I mean truly respect face to face, respect on social media. If you have a problem, we want to fix it. We truly do, and, it's not that we're trying to hide any letters. We don't have anything to hide. Anything that goes on is a public record. Anybody can request it at any time. So, I mean, I just don't understand why it's a problem that we say, "If you're resident, we want to fix your problem, tell us who you are." We only know who people are if we know them because they live on our street, we've been interacting with them at the Rec Center, at the PTA, or whatever. I don't think it's a problem to say, "Who are you?" Verify who you are. Because, it's just like, you know, we've had people from outside the City why they have interest in what we're doing, is beyond me. And, it costs the City money. Frankly, every time someone requests a public record it costs the City money. It costs money because we have to have our internet service, our server people, they're pulling everything, we have our attorney that has to look at things. We have our Administration working on things. It costs the City time and money. We're not trying to hide anything. Everything is an open book here. So, I wanted to put that out there and it's been something that's been percolating in my mind for a while, because, it does get frustrating to us up here too because we're trying to do the best thing that we do. And, it is a job, the people of the City put us up here. Some of us have been here for a very, very long time. Guess what? Nobody is running against us, or the people have decided to put us back up here. So, you know, work with us. If you have a problem, be respectful. We're not up here cursing people out. We're not being mean to people, but, I'll tell you, I've read a lot of things that aren't very complimentary. The other thing I think people need to understand too is communication is so quick anymore; instantaneously you can communicate to people, but, you have to understand too that except for the people on that far end, these are all part-time positions. We are not going to be able to respond instantaneously because, other than those of us who are retired, people have full-time jobs. I know that it's been mentioned two people can't be here because they have other responsibilities. I totally understand that. We all have those things too, but, we've dedicated our lives to doing this. We all miss our spouse's birthdays, our anniversaries, our own birthdays, our children's ballgames, their concerts. We miss all of those things because that's what we signed up to do, because we love this City, and we made a commitment to do it. So, if you have a question, we want to hear it. We truly do. This is not lip service that people are up here saying. Every single person up here has said, "We really want to hear what you

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Mrs. McNear (continued): think". Honest to God it is the truth. We do want to hear it. But, we do want it to be reasonable. We want it to be respectful, and that's what all this is about. It's unfortunate that in this small City, this six square mile city with 11,000 people that we have to put all these rules in place to be able to treat each other kindly. In this holiday season, perhaps we should all look internally to ourselves to say, "Perhaps we should just be a little bit kinder". Look at what we have been through in the last two years with the pandemic. We've been through a lot, and, I think we all just need to be a little bit kinder and work towards that. Thank for you listening to my soapbox this evening.

Mayor Webster: Well said, Mrs. McNear. Well said. For someone that occupied that seat for 24 years, I received numerous letters over the years, unsigned, and at that point they made it in the trash can. Now, with public records, you're not allowed to do that, but I'm sure that Mr. Knox and his 12 years in that office had the same thing. You get an unsigned letter, you don't waste anybody's time. If it's not important to sign it, then that goes into a file, and that's it. I would think that going forward that that's exactly what we should do that. I don't think we should waste time publicizing instructions on how you get a reply. If it's not that important to you, then don't write the letter. If you've got something on your mind, and you want to say it, fine. Write us a letter, an email, whatever, but sign the thing. Tell us who you are. Well, anyway, I totally disagree with trying to reach out and instruct people on how to get a reply. It's common sense. So, anyway, I've got one other document. I'd like to read some numbers here, and I'd like this to be put in the record. Debi (Boggs), I'll give a copy of this. But, when you guys first started talking about trying to limit time for people to talk and so forth, and so on, I asked John, Mr. Jones, to reach out to some other cities, neighboring jurisdictions to find out what they did. Because, I'm a firm believer, why try to re-invent the wheel. Let's see what other communities have done in this regard. So, Mr. Jones did that. He went to the Center for Local Government (CFLG), surveyed 26 respondents, and here's the excerpts from the survey.

"Question # 1: What time limit do you put on citizen comments during Council meetings?"

Four of them had no time limits at all. Two of them had one minute. Eight of them had three minutes. Two of them had four minutes. Nine of them had five minutes. And, one was it was at the discretion of the President of Council. And, one failed to respond.

"Question # 2: Do you require advance sign up advising Council that you're going to be there?"

Well, 19% said, "Yes they do". The rest of them, 57% said, "No", and 21% made them fill out a card once they arrived there.

"Question # 3: Do you allow dialogue on the floor of Council between members and the public?"

Thirty four percent said, "Yes". Nineteen percent said, "No". And, the other one said, "It's at the discretion of Council. They listen, but they do not respond."

"Question # 4: Do you provide responses in writing?"

Nobody did. Forty percent, "Yes", the other 60% majority referred to the Administration to handle case by case.

So, Mr. Jones went one step further and he contacted nine neighboring jurisdictions being Monroe, Sharonville, Trenton, the Princeton School Board, City of Wyoming, City of Blue Ash, City of Eaton, City of Loveland, and the City of Fairfield. That was as of November 4th. The question was, "Do you have a procedure in place for correspondence sent to the Clerk of Council? Is the recommendation acknowledged or read in public? "Yes", but the "No" answers were they do have a procedure, but they do not read it in Council. Nine for nine did not read it. "Do you have a time limit for individuals who want to speak to Council?" Fairfield, Loveland had five minutes. Monroe, Princeton, Blue Ash, Eaton had three minutes. Sharonville, Trenton, and Wyoming had no limit at all. So, I think what we're doing here is certainly not out of the ordinary, and not uncharacteristic for a City, or village, or school board to want to have some control over the dialogue. Thank you.

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Mr. Hawkins: The main thing I wanted to highlight, which Mr. Braun touched on with that 30.05(M), is we're not talking about things that are coming to Council. We're talking about things that would go to the Clerk of Council/Finance Director, and so, I doubt that Mrs. McNear has been getting a bunch of text messages coming through to her from that vantage point. But, in terms of us, as individuals, yes, people communicate with us via text, and email, and whatever else. The only other thing I'd say on that 30.05(M) is if, I mean, really, that's about letters or correspondence that go to the Clerk of Council/Finance Director, and one, if they're going to be read out loud, but I think part of the discussion that's been focused on being important is them being circulated to members of Council, and, as we just talked about with the suggestion the Mr. Jacobs had and to the Administration. So, I think in most instances, we're probably going to get our hands on that if there's an issue where we should. The idea of people signing it, putting some type of means for us to correspond back with them is important for us to be able to correspond back to them. I don't particularly have an issue if it were not a physical address. I think that makes it a heck of a lot easier. An email, a phone number, it's one thing. But, obviously, the more information, the easier it is for us to reach back out to them. Some of what we've gone through, discourse wise, and I've asked for a phone number of one individual because they didn't put a phone number on a letter. I've asked other individuals that have corresponded with that individual, they didn't have that individual's number. So, it's kind of like if you have the intention to want to get feedback, then present a means to get feedback by giving a way for one to get back to you. And, some of that, I think it's a great idea to put on the website. There it's going to be self-explanatory if it's on the website. But, some of it is kind of a thing that you would think would be obvious if I send a correspondence to somebody, and I want a response back from them, I need to give that individual a means to be able to correspond back to me. And, you know, we go from there. But, the main part was, as we're having that discussion, Mr. Braun touched on it, it's important to remember this about what will be going to the Clerk of Council/Finance Director, not necessarily just us. Thank you.

Mr. Jacobs: I look forward. Obviously, we're going to have a bunch of changes with the new language. So, there's only so many times we can talk about this tonight. But, I wanted to clarify one thing. If we are creating a policy that says that you have to have your physical address, I think Mr. Anderson was just asking that we make it clear. Nobody up here is defending anonymous letters. None of us say, "We want anonymous letters read out loud". None of us say, "We want anonymous letters treated any certain way." I haven't heard anybody say that. But, if we say it has to have an address, I don't think it's a big lift to put on the web page, "When residents reach out to Administration or the Clerk (of Council), please include a physical address if you wish a response." That doesn't cost a dime. So, I can't imagine that being some kind of like barrier for us. I think instructions make sense. I think if we're going to change the podium, I think we also should have a handout as people walk in. "You'll be allotted three minutes unless given more time." That doesn't cost anything, and it's fair because we're changing the procedure. So, I don't think it's holding anybody's hand or doing more than we need to. If residents think we're not welcoming, we could prove them wrong by how we behave going forward, and that's what I want to see us do. Beyond that, just to briefly mention it because I don't see a lot of support for it, but, I have no desire to run these meetings. So, if a resident goes past his three minutes, I mean, my concern when I said, it should be a member of Council that could add more time, I don't want all the heat to go on the President (of Council). If a resident is up here with a beef, I think the best bet would be to their district member; not to just blast it all on to the President. And, I'm not asking to run the meeting. I'm saying, if one of thinks they need more time, I don't think it should have to come to a vote. If there's not support for that, then there won't be support for that. Thank you.

Mr. Anderson: I appreciate Mr. Hawkins comments and Mr. Jacobs to echo what my response basically with my questions about address. My concern is I've heard a few different answers to that question and I want to make sure that I know what to expect when we do the next reading. In 30.05(M), we talk about citizen correspondence. In other cases, we talk about residents. If we're going to restrict it to resident communications to Council through the Clerk of Council, then we do need some sort of address to verify that, which is why I wanted to make sure it was included, and, since that is a new thing, it's something we should help communicate to our residents, that, hey, if you're going to do an official communication through the Clerk (of Council), that this is the format that's expected. And, the reason I say that is because it's not obvious. Look at our recent Communications. Even the one from Mr.

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Mr. Anderson (continued): Haugh, which I felt was a valid email that was sent in. It was an email. It had his name, and an email address in response. It did not have his physical address. I don't think that's unusual. And, I don't think it's a fair expectation for people just to know that. And, the idea that a message like that would just be shunted and not responded to, I feel, is a little dismissive of a resident who might have concerns to give. So, I'm not being critical of the past, I'm saying, moving forward, if we're going to require physical addresses, we have a responsibility to make sure that's clear, and I'm asking for us to do that. I'm not trying to say, "Administration fix stuff, and do things". We have a PR committee, we can create a handout that we can put at the front of the dais as Mr. Jacobs mentioned. I'm happy to do heavy lifting in that space, but, I want to be consistent. If the ordinance says, "citizen", we should be talking about all citizens, not just residents, in which case, an address doesn't matter, because out-of-state people would have those same rights. If it's residents, then, we need to verify that somehow. That's all. So, I would look for those changes in the next reading, but, just know that I'm looking for clarification on that. And, return mailing address, if we're going to assume mailing address is physical (address), I feel like we need to say that in writing because I think a lot of people today will think an email address is a return mail address, and would be valid then.

Mr. Hawkins: Along the lines of a lot of the discussion we've had, I think it may be helpful for Mr. Braun going forward, it seems like there's a lot of consensus on most things. The one thing that I haven't heard a consensus on from folks on the dais going forward, is how folks feel about the suggestion made by Mr. Jacobs with regard to, you know, can any member of Council also extend time for a speaker if the President were to decide not to, versus having a vote on it. So, I think if folks at least can give their two cents with regard to that to move forward so that Mr. Braun can be clear on what version of this document we get next time I think would be helpful.

Mr. Anderson: I think that it's part of the presider's responsibility and the fact that we have a relief if there is abuse with a point of order or a calling for a vote, I think that's sufficient to have that check. I don't want to over litigate this. I feel like the presider has that responsibility to run the meeting, and, as long as there's the opportunity to call for a vote if we disagree, I feel like that's sufficient. At least, that's when I voted for you as President of Council, one of the primary reasons was because you ran a good meeting. I know we've had challenges, but, that's the role. So, I wouldn't want to subvert that. I think we have a relief, and I think that's in there. That's my view.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I was literally going to say the same thing is that because we have that one part that says that if for any reason we don't agree with his ruling, that we can in fact speak up and say, "I want to hear more", or whatever. I hear what you're saying. I hear what Mrs. Ghantous was saying, "Do we stop it and then vote?" Because does that stop the flow of conversation too is what I was worried about, because I know that sometimes ADHD or ADD in my mind, if I'm going and then I have to stop what I'm thinking and have a vote and it's hard to get back into the frame of where I was when I was first talking. So, there were a lot of things with that one, but I understand if it's a quick thing where if the time is up, and if for any reason President Vanover says, "We're done.", and I'm like, "Whoa, I want to hear more of it.", I can then say push my button and say, "I want more.", and then will it be like an immediate vote, like, no discussion, just here's when we go, because I want to make sure that that's also clear. Is there discussion? Is there not discussion? Because I don't want to get to where if he says, "No, it should end.", and then I say, "I should stay.", then someone else goes, "Well why do you think they should still talk?" I just want to make sure that everybody is on the same page going completely forward so that there's not another ten minute discussion later on about what are the procedures of that phase of it. Do you know what I mean?

Mrs. Ghantous: I do. That's what I meant.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Yes. That's where I am. Thank you.

Mr. Anderson: I assumed that it would be based off of what is in Robert's Rules of Order. You would call for a vote to extend. Just by that you would say, "Point of order. Call for a vote to extend time." And, at that point, the presiding officer has a responsibility to act on the motion that's on the floor right then. And, as part of a normal motion, there's an opportunity for discussion and that's all spelled out. So, I don't think it's a new procedure. It's just we're

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Mr. Anderson (continued): empowered to make that and we're just setting that expectation. I don't think it would happen. It would be a pretty unusual situation, but, your comment about "Would it break the flow of the conversation?". Just understand what would have already happened at that point. Right at that point, the presiding officer would have already said, "Your time's up. Thank you. Move on to the next." So, at that point, there's already been a pause; it's not an interruption, and then you're not interrupting either speaker at that point because he's already paused or he or she was already paused, and you can say "Point of order, I'd like to call for a vote to extend that person's time." Unless I'm mistaken, that's my understanding of the process. I had one other question too if I could, unless you want to wait until later.

President Vanover: No, go ahead.

Mr. Anderson: There was a comment made about "It's a public record." I've heard a lot of discussion and feedback from residents about that idea. One of the reasons that, people have been trying to help me understand the concern about why they want it written on the record, why they want it read into the record; "It's a public record.", I feel, is a tough answer to that. Yes, of course, if somebody sends an email in, and it gets received by the clerk, we handle it just like we would; a public record. The challenges that the public-at-large doesn't know that that record exists. And, the process for requesting records isn't discovery, right? Even though some people feel like it can be used for like this mallet for discovering what's happened like a legal system. You're requesting a specific record. And, because that letter is never read or included in the minutes, the public-at-large wouldn't know to request that record. So, I feel like there's still a gap there that needs to be addressed. I don't think it has to be addressed with this. I support the idea of correspondence having guiderails, and I do think it's important that we set expectations for the dais, but, I don't think just saying, "It's a public record" is enough. I feel like there's something else we can do; we don't have to do it with this where, maybe we publish quarterly, "Hey, these are the official correspondences we had by title". Maybe we use an updated section of the website that's being put out there to share that information. These are things we can do to enhance communication instead of close it. Again, we don't have to do that tonight, but I think it's fair to set that expectation for residents that just because we're doing things tonight to limit or put some rules around what's happening, it doesn't mean that we can't do those other things. Now, I'm not asking Administration to sign up for that tonight, but, I'm saying that I think it's a fair question the residents have is, "How do I know what's been responded to?", and I think we can work on that. Thank you.

Mr. Hawkins: Point of clarification, Mr. Braun. Do you need an official motion to amend this document then going forward?

Mr. Braun: I've been taking notes, and Mr. Uhl's been taking notes. I think we have a pretty good understanding. So, what I'm going to propose is that we bring that amendment back as a third reading, and then, there could be potentially some tweaks to that. Once those are made at that next meeting, we can move to amend to reflect the version we'll circulate, if you're comfortable with it. I would ask though, again, when we conclude our discussion tonight that somebody make a motion that the ordinance, as presented, be continued for a third reading. One other point I just want to make for Mr. Anderson, I would remind you that not all unsolicited transitory communications that we receive are public records. So, unsolicited letters are not kept by the City; anonymous are never kept. So, just be aware of that.

Mr. Anderson: I think that's important. I do appreciate the clarification, but we need to be helping the public understand what constitutes an unsolicited correspondence that we wouldn't treat as a public record. If we're saying with this update the ordinance that a signed email is not unsolicited, is now a valid record, that's fine. But, if we're saying it has to include an address, a physical address, I think that's an important distinction, and we can look at the new language and see if that's clear next time. I have one other thing I'd like to add to it, and maybe it's just me to put out for discussion is the time. I heard Mayor Webster talk about the polling that happened with other communities and their times. I was struck by the fact that so many had five minute times as opposed to three (minutes). I think, in the spirit of we're kind of "dialing this in", maybe we take one of those less restrictive times out of the gate and pick the

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Mr. Anderson (continued): five minutes instead of three. We haven't run into those clocks before. I feel like it sends a better message that, "Hey, we're trying to set limits to be responsible, but we're not trying to silence anyone." So, I would like to see a five or ten minute limit, because we are, I mean it's Springdale, we're not the City of Cincinnati; we're just trying to stop the abuse of it. So, I don't know what other people think about that. I feel like three struck me as that's really tight.

Mr. Hawkins: I'd be in support of five minutes.

President Vanover: Council? Concurrence? (Councilmembers agreed by nodding in agreement). Alright, well, then, I understood you to ask that you want a motion to continue.

Mr. Anderson made a motion to continue Ordinance No. 38-2022 for a third reading at the December 21, 2022 meeting with amendments that were previously discussed. Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded.

Motion to continue Ordinance No. 38-2022 for a third reading at the December 21, 2022 meeting with amendments that were previously discussed passes with six affirmative votes. (Mr. Ramirez was absent)

Ordinance No. 39-2022

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CLERK OF COUNCIL/FINANCE DIRECTOR TO AMEND THE AGREEMENT WITH CT CONSULTANTS, INC. TO PROVIDE ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Anderson made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 39-2022; Mrs. Sullivan Wisecup seconded.

Mr. Jones: In the letter that's attached, I just wanted to point out in the next to the last paragraph that the proposal is not an increase for the fee schedule for City projects or services. As opposed to that, or, instead of that, it's proposing an increase for fee schedule to perform plan reviews as requested by our Building Department. If I may add to my last comment is it's very consistent with surrounding jurisdictions who request a change.

Mr. Anderson: I was just going to say I've enjoyed having Mr. (Shawn) Riggs join us this past year, so, I hope that we continue to have him with us for another year.

Ordinance No. 39-2022 passes with six affirmative votes. (Mr. Ramirez was absent)

Ordinance No. 40-2022

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING VARIOUS BUILDING INSPECTION FEES CONTAINED IN THE SPRINGDALE CODE OF ORDINANCES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

President Vanover: We are doing two readings with this. We will have a public hearing on the 21st, so, this essentially is the first reading tonight.

Mayor Webster: I just wanted to emphasize what Mr. Vanover said. We're not asking you to pass this tonight. We want the emergency clause in there so that, assuming you pass it on the 21st, it would still go into effect the first of the year.

Mr. Hawkins: And, just for the Administration, the fees that we have listed here, we used the consortium for city government to compare and contrast where we're at with these fees compared to some other neighboring communities.

Mr. Jones: Correct. Our Building Department did some in-depth research and comparison to surrounding jurisdictions and so forth. In addition, I want to add too, keep in mind this is for building, not residential. I just wanted to make sure I pointed that out. But, yes, to answer your question, Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins: We end up sort of in the middle, or?

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Mr. Jones: We're still on the lower end in almost every category.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you.

Mr. Jones: You're welcome.

President Vanover: Mr. Jones, you befuddled me there. You said, this is Building. The Building Code covers both commercial and residential. Correct?

Mr. Jones: It does, but these fees that we're referring to there's not an increase in the residential. We're talking about the Building. Or commercial rather, I'm sorry. Commercial; not residential.

President Vanover: Well, I will state undeniably and clearly that this is, in my opinion, long overdue. I won't bore with horror stories of dealing with other agencies, inspection agencies in the County, but, suffice to say, the last two years have been kind of a challenge dealing with them. So, this brings everything in-house. Our residents will benefit greatly from the increased and improved service, and, take some headaches out of their life in dealing with the Building Department.

Resolution No. R22-2022

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE MAYOR'S RE-APPOINTMENT OF RITA HART TO SERVE ANOTHER TERM AS A MEMBER OF THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024

Mr. Hawkins made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R22-2022; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded.

Mayor Webster: Yes, I'd like to speak to both this and Resolution No. R23-2022. These are two long-term members of the Board of Health. As a matter of fact, they pre-date me as Mayor of the City. I think they served, I'm not so sure that Mr. Ketring was appointed by Mayor French, that's how far back he goes. So, they're both long-term and very productive members of the Board of Health, and I would urge your support for both of those folks. It's a two year term.

Resolution No. R22-2022 passes with six affirmative votes. (Mr. Ramirez was absent)

Resolution No. R23-2022

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE MAYOR'S RE-APPOINTMENT OF KEVIN KETRING TO SERVE ANOTHER TERM AS A MEMBER OF THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R23-2022; Mr. Hawkins seconded.

Resolution No. 23-2022 passes with six affirmative votes. (Mr. Ramirez was absent)

President Vanover: Before we dive into Resolution No. R24-2022, I have been advised that Mrs. Cheryl Darby is interested in continuing on the Civil Service (Commission), but, I will open the floor for nominations. (No other nominations were brought forth.)

Mr. Hawkins made a motion to nominate Cheryl Darby to the Civil Service Commission; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded.

President Vanover: By acclamation, we'll read Resolution No. R24-2022 with Cheryl Darby's name.

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Resolution No. R24-2022

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING CHERYL DARBY TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION FOR THE TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R24-2022; Mr. Hawkins seconded.

President Vanover: I will just add from comments from Mr. Coleman that Mrs. Darby is an integral, and very much appreciated addition and her continued presence on that board.

Resolution No. R24-2022 passes with six affirmative votes. (Mr. Ramirez was absent)

Old Business - None

New Business

Mrs. McNear: I did receive an email from O-K-I via Mr. Anderson. He was in receipt of an email that came through requesting board nominations for this year. This is a new procedure for the O-K-I. We have always received a paper request, and normally, the selection is not due for several weeks into December, but they have asked that we respond by yesterday, so, obviously, we were not able to make that timeframe, and I did leave a message to let the O-K-I group know that that was the situation here, as well as Mr. Anderson did contact them too, to let them know that we would be discussing it this evening. I also wanted to note that in the email communication there was something, and I'm going quote the numbers, it's not going to be exact, but, somewhere around 150 organizations were sent this email, but, only about 40 or 50 have responded, obviously because they didn't get the information either, so, Mr. Anderson has agreed to represent the City of Springdale on this board again, unless anyone has a burning desire to take over.

President Vanover: Speak now, or forever hold your peace.

Mr. Anderson: You guys are missing out. We're going to talk about bridges, we're going to talk about multi-modal paths, we're going to talk..., well, it's also a lot of money for Springdale. Don't forget, we got like \$3 million dollars from O-K-I for the Crescentville Road work. It's important. I'm happy to do it again, but, if other people want a chance....daytime meetings, bridges, no?

President Vanover: Alright Mr. Anderson, by acclamation...Did you have another discussion point?

Mr. Anderson: I had another item for New Business.

President Vanover: Sure.

Mr. Anderson: It's a possible rule that I wondered if Council might want to adopt, or look into. I was at the Parkdale Library a couple of weeks ago, and I noticed a couple of Forest Park residents were looking at their ordinance board that they post over there. Forest Park, as a matter of practice, puts their agenda and the full ordinances that will be before Council in the public library ahead of time, like, the Monday before their meetings. I'm not saying that we have to use the Parkdale Library, but, with recognizing that the Administration does get requests for ordinances and maybe we should just post or start posting them as a matter of practice at the Rec Center, at the Community Center on a board there the Monday before meetings just so people have an opportunity to see the full text of what we're evaluating in these meetings. The reason it occurred to me is it was surprising to me. There were two Forest Park residents looking at an ordinance and they were looking at the detailed language inside of it and talking about it; having a discussion about it, trying to decide if they wanted to talk to their elected officials. I thought that was great, so, I didn't know. I know we don't post ours publically, but I wondered if we might want to start doing that at the Community Center, just on the board the Monday before.

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Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Just a quick question. Did they also have like, you know how we have exhibits and things like that. Is everything included, or just the original text?

Mr. Anderson: From what I saw there when I've gone in there, it's been the full ordinances with attachments on the board. Now, I don't know if it's the full attachments, but some of the ordinances were hefty, so, it seems like they're posting the same thing that we're getting. I think it's a great message that, "Hey, the Community Center is the place to get information about the community". We can use one of the boards there just to post the ordinances. Since we're not really publishing like in newspapers really, other than what's required.

Mr. Uhl: We're moving towards a digital packet to make those available for the general public with some website upgrades here. We anticipate that coming forward in the next couple of months to do a public-facing packet; a full packet; a digital packet available for their review on the Monday prior to a Council meeting. So, that's the intent that we're working towards. We're probably a couple of months away from that going live. So, if that helps kind of push the message out there or make available all those documents with the exhibits, may be beneficial instead of posting a complete packet, but, I hope it addresses what it is you're envisioning.

Mr. Anderson: I think that certainly captures a big population. I do know that our general population is young and it's old. And, I wonder if people might want it in both formats. I do think the electronic packets is a great move. I love that. If other people would be interested in physical packets, I think that's still good. I don't think it costs us much time, and it's just another effort to show transparency, which I think is a great message to be giving right now.

Mr. Jacobs: So, a couple of months timeline maybe for the packet, or for the website upgrade?

Mr. Uhl: Yes and yes.

Mr. Jacobs: Great. That's fantastic.

Mr. Uhl: It's all going to roll out together.

Mr. Jacobs: Love it.

Mr. Uhl: There's some coding that would have to go on with our existing website to make that happen and we're not too far behind when that would occur to roll out a revised website that will be a little more interactive and provide some more opportunity to get notifications and engage.

Mr. Jacobs: Thank you.

President Vanover: To Mr. Anderson's point, where I waiver on hard copies is when like we have a public hearing and a presentation, and, especially if it's a recommendation coming from Planning (Commission), we have plots, and all that, it can get very cumbersome. That's, you know, and especially if, you know, we're going to maintain dual processes. I don't have any problem with doing the ordinances, but, and some of the other stuff, pay tables, I waiver on that. We know, but, putting Fire Department's pay tables out there, I think we're bordering on some not good position.

Mr. Anderson: Those are public records too. I get that, and, maybe it's just the ordinances that we post, right? Just the text ordinances without attachments, which would then give people the opportunity to request the attachments if they want. I can't imagine that would be much of a burden. I do take your point about the Planning Commission with all the plots, and diagrams. But, I think the Ordinances and Resolutions being posted is a great way to encourage engagement.

President Vanover: That's fine.

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Mr. Uhl: We're trying to move towards a lot of the things that you're saying. And, maybe we look into the availability of maybe making that agenda available at the Community Center, and having a QR Code attached to the specifics for the different resolutions and ordinances. That's something where people could go and it would direct them, point them back on to our new website as well. I think there's more, a lot more functionality that we will have moving forward.

Mr. Anderson: I love all of that. I just think it should be added in, not in place of. I think it's great. I was just trying to help my mother-in-law with QR Codes the other day. I don't know that that's an answer for everyone. But, I do like the idea. I think the website is great. I just think it should be in addition to; at least for a while. If it turns out that, you know, that no one is using it and you go there every time and you never see anyone talking about it, we can revisit, but, I mean, this is Council's decision. I feel like we should post it. It's not a secret what we're doing. We should just post it.

Mr. Hawkins: I agree with the idea. I don't think it takes too much to put the agenda down and the ordinances, even if it doesn't have all the attachments, just for folks to be able to see. I think it's awesome what we're going to have in terms electronically and if there's a QR Code to direct them back, that's fantastic too. But, it will give somebody something tangible to look at, thumb through, and maybe peak their interest to dig further with what we've got going.

President Vanover: Well, then, I guess a directive. Do you want a consensus of Council to the Administration on that?

Mr. Anderson: I mean, if you'd like to make it a formal rule, we can create a rule. It's what you want to do. If people want to think about it and talk about it next week, that's fine. Or in two weeks. I just want to put it out there. I feel like it's an easy low-hanging fruit we can deal with.

Mr. Jones: I guess the only thing I would like to caution everyone with is our agendas do change. We may tell you on Friday, here's your packet, and thank you, pick it up, it's available to you. And, on Monday, I get a call from Joe Braun that says we're going to need an Executive Session. The reason why I bring that up in particular is obviously, things like that happen, but, in addition to that, sometimes things that are put out by the City, like the Parks and Rec or something like that on an event, we may cancel that event due to weather, but the message was put out on social media other than by us, and people don't know the event got cancelled. So, I just bring that kind of thing up that things change and sometimes they change and not everybody gets the message. So, I realize it's, you know, if we do it on Friday, and it changes on Monday, it's not that hard for us to go back and fix that. But, if it changes Wednesday afternoon and Mr. Braun says, "I need an Executive Session", well, that's going to be added to the agenda and so forth. So, other than that, I guess, from an Administrative point of view, I don't have a big issue with that, but, I just need to remind folks that those things do happen, and that's a realistic example I gave. We had people frustrated with us that events were put on social media that we didn't put up, but they felt they showed up for an event that had been cancelled.

Mr. Anderson: We're talking about ordinances for our Council meetings, not all notices, and maybe that's a good point is that maybe we need to put a disclaimer on whatever board we're using that says, "As of this date, always check the website for the latest and kind of drive people to the website because that's what we want to encourage, right? So, a simple disclaimer is, I think, a good call out, but, the ordinances? If they're changing on Tuesday for a meeting Wednesday, it's a different problem.

Mr. Jones: No, the ordinances, per say, wouldn't change, but, the agenda certainly could. So, thank you.

President Vanover: Concurrence of Council? (Councilmembers were in agreement)

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Mr. Hawkins: I had asked, I'll ask again formally this evening if Mr. Braun can look at our Section 73.04 with regard to handicap parking and just making sure that we're up-to-date, and we don't need any modifications made for our enforcement. So, I just wanted to make sure I publically had said that, and, I already spoke with Mr. Braun, but I wanted to make sure Council was aware I had made that request.

Mr. Braun: Yes, I'll just confirm that I sent myself a note so I don't forget.

Meetings and Announcements

Mr. Jacobs: Board of Health will meet tomorrow adjacent to these chambers at 7:00 p.m.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Planning Commission will meet in these chambers next Wednesday, the 12th at 7:00 p.m.

Communications from the Audience

Ms. Matheny: Julie Matheny, I'm a resident at 669 Park Avenue. I noticed earlier in the lengthy discussion on the Code of Council rules that Mr. Jacobs and Mr. Anderson spent a great deal of time saying how appalled they were at what they had heard at the podium at the meeting prior, and, from the audience. I was just curious if you two were as appalled tonight when you read your minutes, and you saw where Mr. Haugh said that they Mayor is "no better than a common criminal; common thief".

Mr. Jacobs: I mentioned this already and have spoken to it in my opinion. Once you take this seat, I expect the public to be disappointed in me and lob stuff at me. I'd like us to be above that. So, I'm not sure if, like, you're looking for some equivalency, like..

Ms. Matheny: No. I'm asking you if you were appalled. Are you appalled that a public servant, for over 50 years, who has served this City and his family has, that, somebody comes up here and accuses him of being no better than a common thief. Does that not appall you Mr. Jacobs?

Mr. Jacobs: Well, I feel like you're coming at me right now, like you want me

Ms. Matheny: Well, as you said...

Mr. Jacobs: I'm trying to....

Ms. Matheny: You put your name on the ballot, and you're up there because I took my name off. So, you've got to take heat too. If we've got to take it, you've got to take it. Welcome to politics in Springdale.

Mr. Jacobs: I was in the process of answering your question. Do you not want me to answer your question?

Ms. Matheny (off mic): Sure.

Mr. Jacobs: Well, you left the podium, so, I don't know if this is a discussion anymore, or just a statement.

Ms. Matheny (off mic): Just a statement.

Mr. Jacobs: Okay.

Mr. Uhl: Sorry Mr. President, I do have one thing to add. The Rental Program Committee will be meeting on December 14th at 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Anderson: Thank you Mr. Uhl. I knew I was forgetting something.

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Update on legislation still in development

Mr. Hawkins: As you review your Internal Memorandum, Item Number I was addressed with Ordinance No. 34-2022; An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk of Council/Finance Director to Enter Into an Agreement with CT Consultants for Additional Design Engineering Services Related to the Inclusion of a Shared Use Path for the Northland Boulevard Reconstruction Project. That passed with a 6-0 vote. Item Number II was addressed with Ordinance No. 38-2022; An Ordinance Amending Chapter 30 of the Springdale Code of Ordinances Governing Procedures at City Council Meetings. That was continued to the next meeting with amendments and that was with a 6-0 vote. Item Number III was addressed with Ordinance No. 39-2022; An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk of Council/Finance Director to Amend the Agreement with CT Consultants, Inc. to Provide Engineering Services for the City of Springdale and Declaring an Emergency. That passed with a 6-0 vote. Item Number IV was addressed with Resolution No. R22-2022, and R23-2022; Confirming the Mayoral Appointments to the Board of Health with regard to Rita Hart and Kevin Ketring respectively. Both of those passed with 6-0 votes. Item Number V was addressed with Ordinance No. 40-2022; An Ordinance Amending Various Building Inspection Fees Contained in the Springdale Code of Ordinances and Declaring an Emergency. That was a first reading. Item Number VI, and Item Number VII, and Item Number VII were all forthcoming. Item Number IX was addressed with Resolution No. R24-2022, which involved An Ordinance Appointing Cheryl Darby to the Civil Service Commission and that passed with a 6-0 vote.

President Vanover: And we have forthcoming Charter Revision and Tax Review Board that we'll deal with at our next meeting.

Mayor Webster: I will have a resolution before Council confirming someone on Planning Commission at the next meeting.

Recap of legislative items requested for next Council meeting

Mr. Hawkins: We will have a third reading of Ordinance No. 38-2022.

Mr. Jones: I'm sorry. Mr. Hawkins can keep going, but, I'm sure he'd like to remind folks up here that he'll be reviewing the Finance Committee's recommendation to Council with regard to the Budget. I'm pretty sure he was going to mention that.

Mr. Hawkins: Of course. We will have a third reading of Ordinance No. 38-2022; An Ordinance Amending Chapter 30 of the Springdale Code of Ordinances Governing Procedures at City Council Meetings. We will have a second reading with regard to Ordinance No. 40-2022; An Ordinance Amending Various Building Inspection Fees Contained in the Springdale Code of Ordinances and Declaring an Emergency. We will have Adopting the Final Appropriation and Transfer Ordinance for 2022. We'll have an Ordinance Adopting a Temporary Appropriations Ordinance for the Period of January 1, 2023 until the Fiscal Year 2023 Appropriations Permanent Ordinance is Adopted by City Council. We will also have An Ordinance Setting the Employee Pay Rates for 2023 and Declaring an Emergency. We will have additional appointments; Resolutions for Confirming Appointments with regard to various Commissions including Planning Commission, and we will also go over the budget for the 2023 for Council's approval. And, that's it unless there's anything else from Council or the Administration.

President Vanover: Looks like we're covered.

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Adjournment

Mr. Hawkins made a motion to adjourn; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McNear
Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Minutes Approved:
Tom Vanover, President of Council

_____, 2022