

## City of Springdale Council

December 21, 2022

President of Council Vanover called Council to order on December 21, 2022.

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

Mrs. McNear provided the Invocation.

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

President Vanover: Mr. Jacobs emailed me early this morning, and he is under the weather, so he will not be with us.

### Committee and Official Reports

#### Civil Service Commission

Mr. Coleman: Good evening. Civil Service Commission did meet on December 1<sup>st</sup>. All members were present. What I would like to advise you of this evening is under our New Business agenda and that was the position classification update and what we had before us was a list of employee classifications with proposed revisions for job titles and so forth, and the proposals included the elimination of the position title Clerk Typist. We all agreed that that's something that's pretty outdated at this point, and, generally Administrative Assistant is more appropriate at this time. The work is pretty much the same, so, as we went through the roster, I think there maybe was one position that was still on the active roster as Clerk Typist. We also found the Administrative Secretary position, also falling in within that same category. Nowadays, I'm not aware very many individuals, if any, that are now titled as secretaries. Again, they pretty much fall within the Administrative Assistant classification. We did add four Building Inspector positions, and those are step positions; Building Inspector I, (Building Inspector) II, (Building Inspector) III, (Building Inspector) IV, and some of the thinking behind this, and Mr. Lamping can certainly speak on it if he chooses to, was that if we hire someone in at Building Inspector I, then there is incentive to move up to (Building Inspector) II, III, IV with the appropriate certifications and experience. And then, the last position was a retitling, and I have to smile with this one because it was the custodian position, to Facilities Maintenance position. So, again, we hope that that will attract more candidates as opposed to advertising as custodian. So, Facilities Maintenance, hopefully, will work for us. The other item that I would like to share with Council this evening was our 2022 hiring and promotional process recap. And, within the various departments, there were 177 interviews conducted, and within that framework, there were 45 new hires; 33 were full-time, and 12 were part-time. As we continue to move forward, we know that activity for 2023 will involve, again, a number of departments and the Civil Service Commission, no doubt, will continue to support Administration in their efforts to complete the task and we'll be available as needed. And, hopefully, we'll have success for 2023 like we did for 2022, and that concludes my report. Any questions?

Mr. Ramirez: What is our goal for Building Inspectors? How many would be allotted?

Mr. Coleman: There are four positions that we're hoping to fill.

Mr. Ramirez: Four?

Mr. Coleman: Four.

Mr. Ramirez: Currently, we have ...

Mr. Coleman: One.

Mr. Ramirez: Okay.

Mr. Coleman: Again, a lot of it has to do with having to contract some of that work out. And, if we have the individuals in house, then we have better control.

Mr. Ramirez: Are we down to one because of the pay scale?

City of Springdale Council

December 21, 2022

Mr. Coleman: Not that I'm aware of.

Mr. Ramirez: Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Uhl: Just to clarify, we have the four positions within the Building Department, and, currently we have three inspectors. One is a certified Building Inspector. The other two are property maintenance inspectors. What we did is what Mr. Coleman was alluding to is the four different Building Inspector classifications. Essentially, it was retitling three of the existing positions, and then creating another level, another layer of certification to provide four. So, essentially, once the two current Property Maintenance Inspectors either advance and obtain more certifications and can go to move to Building Inspector II, we will dissolve the Property Maintenance classification, and those folks will now, when they get hired in, would become a Building Inspector I. So, the Building Inspector I essentially is the Property Maintenance Inspector position. The Building Inspector II is a new position, I believe, or no, it's existing, which is the normal Building Inspector. Building Inspector III is a new position, but, again, these are just graduated levels of certification that the employee would obtain. The Building Inspector IV position is what Randy Campion, he retired back in July, that's what he held, and so it was just retitled so that it's kind of a graduated step depending on the certifications and inspection services they can provide.

Mr. Ramirez: Thank you. I think that's a good move.

Rules and Laws

Mrs. Ghantous

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No report

Finance Committee

Mr. Hawkins: Finance Committee met on November 30<sup>th</sup> of this year. Both members were present. We went over the 2023 Budget; pored over it for several hours. We will go into some more detail with regard to that when we go through the Budget presentation, but, I will just highlight in general we have a number, a much higher amount of expenditures for 2023 than we previously had. We forwent a few things in 2022, and sort of saving money and we're going to be executing on those things coming up this year. But, in all, the Finance Committee is in favor of the budget that's going to be before you today, and we'll go into detail when we get to that point.

Planning Commission

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Planning Commission met on December 13<sup>th</sup>, and we had all members there. And, it was Don Darby's last meeting as a member of our Planning Commission, and we all thanked him profusely. He was an amazing addition to Planning Commission and he will be missed. We had three things come before us. The first one was Sleep Outfitters for a Minor Modification to a PUD, and that's at 405 East Kemper Road. That is where Panera used to be, and, we were just talking about signage. They wanted to put signage where like the Panera used to be on that little tag in there and on the sides, and we approved that 7-0. And, White Castle came with a Development Plan and they are 11575 Springfield Pike. Most people know where White Castle is. It's currently on six different parcels of land, and we did want them to see if they can get it all together, and they said at this time they couldn't because they weren't the owners of that place there, so, the owners were unwilling to do that. But, other than that, they wanted non-illuminated awnings, and some signage changes, and that passed with a 7-0 vote. Then, Vertex came with a Minor Modification to a PUD; that's at 1120 Strategic Parkway. That is Building number three, correct? Building Number three? Two? So, sorry, Building number two, and they were asking for a Minor Modification for screening on the roof for their HVAC units, and because of where they are, you would actually see more things on the roof if they put screening up there. The screening would be more obtrusive than if they just left it the way that it was, and we had allowed that for other buildings because of their unique situation with their elevations, and, so, that did pass with a 7-0 vote. And, we will not have a meeting in January, so our election for officers will be in February at our next meeting. And, did you have anything to add or any questions? (Addressing Mr. Ramirez)

Mr. Ramirez: No; very complete.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Thanks.

## City of Springdale Council

December 21, 2022

Board of Zoning Appeals                      Mrs. Ghantous                      -                      No report

### Board of Health

Mayor Webster: The Board of Health met on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Have several items to discuss, but the most noteworthy is the fact that the Board, based upon Mr. Clayton, our Health Commissioner's recommendation, voted to close the Days Inn there on Glensprings Drive, primarily because they were operating without a license. As per our code, you cannot transfer a hotel operating license, or motel license. And so, the property changed hands back on August 12<sup>th</sup>, and so our Health Department worked with those folks from August 12<sup>th</sup> until December 8<sup>th</sup> to try to get all their violations taken care of. So, you can only get your license if you have no violations. So, violations outstanding, we cannot issue a license, so, therefore, after four months the board voted to close the facility. The owners were there; they pleaded for a ten day extension, which we denied, and, so, the order was issued and posted the very next day. I'm pleased to say that the owners took it seriously, and went in there like gangbusters. I understand one day they had like thirty some odd people working in that facility. And now, I'm pleased to announce that we did relicense the facility on Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup>; eleven days later, after I'm sure a goodly sum of money was spent. I understand they had steam cleaners in the rooms, in the showers, and painting, and new linens and so forth and so on. So, anyway, it met all of our code as of the 19<sup>th</sup>, and, so, it was reopened as of that day. I think the most important thing is that hopefully this sends a message to any other motel or hotel operator in the City of Springdale that you will be held to a very strict standard that we'd like to do away with substandard housing in our hotels, and I guess as a side report here, we don't have it on the agenda tonight, but the next Council meeting we will have our chronic nuisance ordinance with its first reading on January 4<sup>th</sup>, and that plays into this also. So, had we had that in place, these folks would have already invoked that and we would have had another club to use for enforcement. So, we're excited to get that in place. That pretty well concludes the Health Department report.

Mrs. McNear: Mayor, the fascia of that building has a lot of rot on it. Is that just something that's still expected to be worked on? It wasn't part of those violations?

Mayor Webster: I'm sorry.

Mrs. McNear: So, the fascia of the hotel, around the windows is rotted. So, I assume that was probably not part of the violations, but something that is an ongoing fix that's anticipated?

Mayor Webster: What is that? (Static noise was heard which was occurring during the broadcast and the recording of the meeting) So, did I hear you right? You're concerned about rotting windows in the facility?

Mrs. McNear: Right.

Mayor Webster: I don't know anything about rotting windows. We haven't talked about that.

Mrs. McNear: If you drive by, and you look at the bottom of the windows on Glensprings, you'll see there's white wood underneath the window, and it's rotted. I'm just wondering if that's assumed not part of the other violations, but other maintenance items that's expected to be fixed in the near term?

Mayor Webster: I'll turn it over to Mr. Clayton, but I'm not aware of that situation.

Mrs. McNear: Okay.

Mr. Braun: I can indicate that we'll take a look at that and report back to you. That would fall under property and property maintenance violations. They can't have any health code violations at the time they apply for the license. However, I just want to emphasize that doesn't mean that everything that's going to be done at the hotel is finished already. They have outstanding fire violations, and some other things that they're also working on, and they may have gotten some of them finished already, but, I can tell you I am certain they still have additional things to do. We also know that they had hired some long-term contractors who were

## City of Springdale Council

December 21, 2022

Mr. Braun (continued): going through and doing wood replacement around the HVAC units in each one, so, I think it's a work in progress, and I think the Mayor is absolutely correct that if they don't continue down the path that they're going, we will be back on them.

Mrs. McNear: Thank you. I know I went by there at 8:30 (p.m.) one night last week and I thought, "What is going on here? I know this place is shut down." But, it was lit up like a Christmas tree. Every light in every room was on, so I did send an email to Mr. Clayton saying, "I thought this was closed." He said it's probably workers in there. I said, "At 8:30 at night?" So, apparently from the message that you've just given, that they have been working around the clock to make reparations in this building. Thank you.

Capital Improvements

Mrs. Ghantous

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No report

O-K-I

Mr. Anderson: I know you've missed me last time for the update, so, I want to round back to the November meeting. There was no O-K-I meeting in December, but there was one in November. There was one item that I wanted to make sure that I shared with the group. There was a presentation on Safe Streets Presentation. It's something that's come up several times with O-K-I and I continue to carry the banner. The goal at that presentation was to help change the mindset of safe streets; that they really need to account for multiple modes of transportation, including walking and bike paths, not just the paved roads themselves. While that's important for our group and Administration is that OKI has changed their prioritization and scoring method to take this into account. So, when there are requests for funding through OKI, one of the scoring metrics is, "Does this conform to the 'Save Our Streets' Program?" Which means, "Did you account for multiple modes of transportation?" So, the last time we did approve our Bike and Multi-Modal path, that's going to continue to come up over the years. Because, as a Community, not just Springdale, but, regional, it's a priority. So, if we want more of that money like what we got for Crescentville, we got something like \$3 million dollars from OKI as a grant for that work, that's going to continue to be a thing. So, I'm glad that we're working on that. But, it's another presentation, and I think you're going to hear more about it from OKI in the future. It's really something that's being pushed from a lot of different directions. That's it. Thank you.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Webster: I'd like to start off by giving you a final report of our S.O.S. (Springdale Offering Support) activities. Our Christmas activities. I'm very pleased to announce that this year we have serviced 100 families; low-income families, needy families within the City of Springdale, which comprised 375 children. Both are new all-time records. This was just an absolute tremendous effort. You would have to see all the packages and so forth and so on to appreciate the effort. I hate to start thanking people because I know I'm going to leave some people out, but I think that some of the people that played a very prominent role is Debi Boggs sitting here was one of our coordinators and did a marvelous job of, this year we had the families and Monday was pick up day. So, they come in, talk to Debi (Boggs), Debi would give them a voucher, and I guess she gave gift cards I think also did you? Gave gift cards and a voucher. They took the voucher across the street to the Fire Department, gave it to one of the firemen, they would then radio downstairs and say, "Family # 123 is here." In the meantime, they'd pick up their groceries and so forth, move their car up a few feet with presents waiting for them, a couple of firemen would bring the bags up from downstairs, give them to the family and out they'd go. Brian (Uhl) told me, I saw him yesterday I guess, that it's the smoothest thing he's ever seen. There was no traffic back up, there was no back up over at Debi's desk; things just went like clockwork. And, so, that's really a tribute to Debi (Boggs), to Tom Lindsey, who suggested and organized the Fire Department's role in this thing, and also to Keenan Riordan, our Police Information Officer, who was a very integral player in this. So, in addition to Elizabeth Johnson, and Matt Clayton, and the entire S.O.S. Board, and I just can't say enough about the effort that was put forth here, not only those individuals, but, I'd like to thank a couple more individuals being John (Jones) and Brian (Uhl) here, which allowed some of the City workers to use some of their down time to help with the effort, we got a lot of help from various City departments, from the Fire Department as I indicated, Public Works, guys came up and help move all the goods from downstairs over to the Fire Department early Monday. Naturally, the Health Department, Police Department, Building Department as far as

## City of Springdale Council

December 21, 2022

Mayor Webster (continued): wrapping and so forth, and, so, I think it was really a City effort, and, I think that is just so heartwarming to see the City step up to an obligation like this and it's not something we have to do, but, I think it's something we recognize that there's a lot of unfortunate people out there that can use our help. So, I'd like to thank anyone up here that helped with donations. Just to attach a value to this thing, I had Matt (Clayton) do a little arithmetic for me. It looks like probably the entire, and this was on the low side, we were conservative with all these estimates. We tried to estimate how much the box of food cost, it was like \$20 to \$30 dollars I think. Gift cards; over \$6,000 worth of gift cards from a very generous sponsor from Meijer sent over \$6,000 worth of gift cards. Actually a lot from donor families. Matt's report has six new bikes; I think it turned out to be eight or ten. But, anyway, we tried to place a value on this. It comes out to somewhere around \$63,000. That was the financial impact on those families. It could never have happened without the generosity of not only the individuals, some here in the building, on the dais, and so forth, but, Springdale citizenry in general was just an outstanding effort along with some of the businesses also. So, I just couldn't be happier for our S.O.S. program and this thing started off about 2009, or 2010, and we had ten families, and we were so happy we identified ten needy families. And, so, it's gone from ten to 100. So, anyway, job well done everybody. Mrs. Ghantous mentioned, or Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup mentioned that Mr. Darby finished up his career on Planning Commission and so as my appointment, I am recommending to City Council this evening that Mr. Jeff Singleton be appointed to replace him. I distributed his bio and everything out there to everybody's mail slots. And, so, I would ask for your confirmation this evening for that replacement. I'd just like to make a couple of comments about the budget before we even get to it, but, as Lawrence (Hawkins) indicated, this is an extraordinary budget as far as the amount. It's like a \$30 million dollar budget. I didn't think I'd ever live long enough to see a \$30 million dollar budget within the City of Springdale, but, that's what you have before you this evening. Now, a lot of that is money that was budgeted for this year that that did not get spent. We were very cautious because we didn't know what was going to be in store for us with the work-from-home situation and so a lot of the items that were budgeted for, that money was never spent. And, so, a lot of that is being committed in the 2023 Budget, and, we had the Facilities Assessment Process completed this year, and, I think it indicated something like \$32 million dollars-worth of capital improvements, well, I'm pleased to say we're going to commit \$2.3 million dollars in additional Capital Improvement items. This is not counting rolling stock, it's not counting the normal replacement stuff. This is structural improvements; \$2.3 million dollars and that's spread over the Municipal Building, the Public Works, Parks, Fire, and Police. So, yes, it's not \$32 million dollars, but, I think it will be a long time before we come up with the whole \$32 million, but this is a start on it, and, a lot of the stuff is stuff that people are not going to see, like, \$350,000 for the HVAC replacement at the Rec Center, well, you're never going to see that; that's on the roof. But, you're going to feel the benefit of it hopefully. I could go through the whole list, but I don't want to belabor the point, but, anyway, it's a good start. In conclusion, I'd just like to say that I think that 2022 has been a very good year for the City. We've completed a Comprehensive Land Use Plan, a Connectivity Plan, we spent nine months doing a deep dive into considering the Rec Center move over to Artisan Village, and our recommendation was not to do that, and, like I say, we're recommending a \$30 million dollar budget with substantial Capital Improvements, and, with the success we've had with S.O.S. reaching new heights, I think it's been an absolutely fantastic year, and I'm looking forward to 2023. So, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year to all of you.

Mrs. McNear: This is just a comment regarding S.O.S. For all of you who are Amazon.com shoppers, if you place your order through AmazonSmile.com, you can select an organization to have funds sent to them from Amazon. They have a charity. All you have to do is select who you want as your charity and every time you go in to place an order with AmazonSmile.com; sometimes you might find a link that will take you directly to Amazon.com versus Amazon Smile.com, and there will be no funds delivered to S.O.S., but if you would like to do that, or consider doing that, it would be a great benefit that we'd have a constant stream of money coming in from AmazonSmile.com that would go to S.O.S. for the benefit of the people in our City. Thank you.

## City of Springdale Council

December 21, 2022

### Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Mrs. McNear: The General Fund Update through November 30, 2022. For receipts, based on a net receipt budget of \$21.2187 million dollars, we have received \$23.003 million dollars, which is %108 of the anticipated budget. And, those receipts are based on five general fund resources; Earnings Tax, Real Estate Taxes, Paramedic Services, Local Government Funds, and Mayor's Court for a total of \$21.408 million dollars, which is 93% of the budget. For expenditures through November 30<sup>th</sup>, based on a net expenditure budget of \$22.149 million dollars, we've spent \$17.989 million dollars, which is 80% of the budget. And, our General Fund ending balance through November 30, 2022 is \$9.648 million dollars. Also, just wanted to make another comment in addition to what Mr. Hawkins, and Mayor Webster said, we will be addressing the budget shortly, and would appreciate everyone's support in approving the budget, and that concludes my report. Thank you.

### Administrator's Report

Mr. Jones: I too would like to thank everyone for their involvement in any way; donations, contributions, participation with S.O.S. Brian (Uhl) and I also appreciate that we asked Department Heads to allow your staff as time allows to work with folks, and it really worked out nice. Again, appreciate the top to bottom everybody was involved in that. Special thanks to Don Darby for his many dedicated years of service. He has served, the Mayor tells me, under four different Mayors, and I just think that's amazing. Don (Darby) is just one of the nicest guys I've met in the City since I've been here. I'm in my fifth year here, and one of my favorite things that he would do is each December he would cook breakfast for the entire Administration, and, I'm not exaggerating; it was impressive. And, it was fantastic as well. And, so, when he announced to us that he was leaving, and he was going to retire and not come back, somebody, may or may not have asked, "But, will you continue cooking that breakfast?" (laughter) So, what a great guy, and he's going to be missed, and fortunately, we get to keep his wife on one of our committees. Charlie Wilson, the Director of Parks and Rec wanted me to report that AARP is offering free basic tax filing services at the Community Center. Check at the front desk and they'll start taking appointments on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Coaches Memorial and Winter Sports Pep Rally will take place on Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m., and Charlie encourages all elected officials to attend if they'd like to be there. And, youth sports registration starting January 2<sup>nd</sup>. That's for soccer, volleyball, baseball, t-ball, coach pitch, and softball. Thank you.

### Law Director's Report

Mr. Braun: The Mayor stole my thunder, but, I do want to say the chronic nuisance ordinance that the Mayor talked about, that will be coming before you legislatively in 2023, hopefully in January, and, I did want to just especially Councilmember Anderson, President Vanover, and Councilmember Sullivan-Wisecup in addition to the members and representatives from the Health Department, Fire Department, Police Department, and Building Department. This is a very comprehensive ordinance that touches every residential and potentially every residential/commercial property in the City, and could impact them, and, so, when you see it in your packet, I just want the other members of Council to know there were multiple meetings that took place. There was lots of agonizing discussions about, "Should we do this?", "What's the impact?". It's not often that legislation that appears in front of your packet goes through that rigorous process; this is one of those. And, so, I want to thank the members of Council that assisted City Administration in generating this, and, I want to let you know that when you see it in your packet, please know that there is a lot of effort behind it, and we look forward to hearing your input on it. So, thank you.

### Engineer's Report

Mr. Riggs: We'll start with the East Crescentville Road Improvements Project. The storm sewer trunk like that works on the north side is about 50% complete. They ran into a little utility issue, so the utility is being adjusted and the contractor is going to return in January to wrap up the storm sewer work. The Northland Boulevard Project; the fee proposal for final design. That was approved at the last meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup> and we already started the additional field survey on December 12<sup>th</sup>. East Kemper Road CSX Bridge Repair Project had a preconstruction meeting on Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, and, as of yesterday, construction was expected to begin January 3<sup>rd</sup>, but, learned today that there's been some issue acquiring the CSX flagger during the holiday, so, it may be pushed back a week or so. The State Route Four Urban Paving; there's no change, but, I just want to remind everyone that that project is

City of Springdale Council

December 21, 2022

Mr. Riggs (continued): going to be advertised by ODOT (Ohio Department of Transportation) on January 10<sup>th</sup>, with a January 30<sup>th</sup> bid opening. The State Route 747 Urban Paving Project; ODOT approved the final plans on December 5<sup>th</sup>, and that's going to be advertised by ODOT on March 9<sup>th</sup> next year, and that's all I have.

Rental Program Committee

Mr. Anderson: Talk about stealing thunder, out of consideration for the minutes taking, I won't go into being repetitive on all of those points, but, I did want to say the Rental Committee did meet this past Wednesday here in the Administration Building. The meeting was well attended, and, I think Mr. Braun did understate how impressive the meeting was in conduct. What he said is absolutely true. It was actually inspiring seeing so many people engaged in something; trying to solve a specific problem. The people there could attest to that. Everybody was there and they were all open and willing to have the discussions, and, talk about what it meant to policy, how do we enforce that, who's going to do it. The one thing I would softly correct Mr. Braun on is I wouldn't call it "agonizing discussion". I think it was engaged discussion, and, it was well received on all counts. So, there will be an ordinance coming before this board, we're going to ask for it in the first meeting, for the first reading, we are going to ask for a second reading and a public hearing for that ordinance. We had promised the public would have an opportunity to digest it and give us any feedback on how this might affect them that we hadn't thought about, and I think that's important, so, while we did spend a lot of time talking about what we think this means from an administration and enforcement standpoint, if there's things that fall under this idea of a chronic nuisance property, that's the time to give that feedback. So, in that second meeting in January is when we expect to have that. If there's things that we need to adjust, that's the time to tell us. The committee will not be finished with this one ordinance. We have a second tranche of work to do, specifically related to road and transportation impacts, and we're going to take that on after we finish this first ordinance, so look for that in your packets. Thank you.

Communications	-	None
Communications from the Audience	-	None

Presentation of the 2023 Budget

Mr. Hawkins: Before we get started, on behalf of the Finance Committee, myself, and Mr. Ramirez, we do want to thank Stephanie Morgan, Jeff Williams, Mr. Uhl, Mr. Jones, Mayor Webster, Mrs. McNear, as well as Renee (Elliott) for all the effort and time that goes into this. Our meeting, I said, lasted a couple of hours. The time that gets spent on this is months in the making, and, so, it all gets boiled down into this thick document that we have here to go through. As was indicated, we do have about \$7.9 million dollars over what we had done last year in terms of planned expenditures, and that's to take care of some things that we didn't address in 2022, as the Mayor indicated, trying to be fiscally responsible to wait and see how some other revenue was going to shake out. Before I turn it over to the Administration for some introductory statements before we jump into it, I do want to make sure folks understand the process, and we've talked about this somewhat before. When the Administration gets started with this, they go through all the Department Heads, sort of their "wish list", or what they're thinking they need, and, that information comes in to Administration, then Administration then goes back, filters that, pares that down somewhat, there's some back and forth discussion that goes on with that, there's discussions with the Mayor with regard to those, and then once you've pared all that down for each Department, it comes to the Finance Committee, the Finance Committee goes through it, we go through asking page by page for clarity on some different things. It's important to note and it's been referenced before when we've gone through the budget sometimes there are not as many questions as you would think for a document that's this big, but, it's because the Administration painstakingly takes time to put in explanations with regard to when there's increases or decreases, and, what specific expenditures are for. And, so, a lot of the questions are answered as a result. There still obviously can be questions and that's why we go through the budget to make sure if there's anything that folks have questions on input, clarity, they have the opportunity to do that. Before we jump into it, I'll turn it over to the Administration for any introductory comments before we get going.

City of Springdale Council

December 21, 2022

Mr. Jones: Thank you for that Lawrence (Hawkins), and you have properly thanked all the folks that I would be doing as well, and, so, I appreciate that and we appreciate the Finance Committee's work on this. You are correct; a lot of effort was put in to making sure that we had a substantial carryover for this year, and I don't want to keep saying the same thing, but it's not by dumb luck that that happened. We did it intentionally. But, to do that, a lot of things had to be delayed. So, you'll hear that, you'll see that, and, with that, I think you did a very good introduction between you and the Mayor's comments, but I think Mr. Uhl, if you don't mind, Mr. President, if you could indulge us for a couple of minutes, we'd like for him to talk a little bit about some stuff prior to Mr. Hawkins jumping in.

Mr. Uhl: One of the things that you'll find a little bit different in this budget in regards to Capital Improvement projects is that we asked each Department Head to take on the first \$100,000 of the expense and contain that within their own budget. Anything above and beyond \$100,000 would then roll into the Capital Improvements Budget (090). So, you may see some different areas, or different departments in the (090) budget, where you see dollar amounts that are less than what we would typically see in a typical budget proposal. However, the first \$100,000 was required to be maintained within each Department's budget; anything above and beyond \$100,000 would then hit the Capital (Improvements Budget {090}).

Mr. Hawkins: So, going forward we'll start with the Police Department budget

Police Department - no questions/concerns

Mr. Hawkins: In the course of that, you can see we do have a little increase with regard to some training. There's some training they couldn't go through over COVID, and, we also have some new officers that are here as well. Also, you'll see that we have an increase with regard to vehicles. We didn't have any rolling stock that was put in through the 2022 Budget.

Fire Department - no questions/concerns

Health Department - no questions/concerns

Mrs. McNear: This isn't a comment for the Health Department, but I just wanted to point out that Mr. Williams is in the audience too, should we have any specific questions related to the Budget too. Thank you.

Parks and Recreation Department - no questions/concerns

Mr. Hawkins: As you can see, again, as some discussion was about Building Maintenance, there's budgeted in there, with regard to the Public Notice, replacing indoor track ledge, lobby drywall repair, repainting walls, floor replacement, rental rooms, etc.

Building Department - no questions/concerns

Waste Collection - no questions/concerns

Public Works - no questions/concerns

Administrative Office - no questions/concerns

Economic Development - no questions/concerns

Finance Department - no questions/concerns

Legislative Body - no questions/concerns

Other Commissions - no questions/concerns

City of Springdale Council

December 21, 2022

Tax Department - no questions/concerns

General Administration - no questions/concerns

Mr. Hawkins: And, you can see some building and maintenance repair, things that we did not do in 2022 that we had budgeted for that we're now going to take care of in 2023.

Transfers and Advances - no questions/concerns

Adult Sports Fund - no questions/concerns

Street Maintenance Fund - no questions/concerns

State Highway Improvement Fund - no questions/concerns

One Ohio Opioid Fund - no questions/concerns

Mr. Jones: Mr. Hawkins, this is the one that was newly established that Council accepted monies for.

Mr. Hawkins: And these funds are likely to be used for training and education?

Mr. Jones: Correct.

Grants Fund - no questions/concerns

Mr. Hawkins: And, that's really an opportunity to see and commend all the folks from Police, Fire, Health Department in terms of all the grants that have been sought after and obtained, helping save a significant amount of money.

Court Computerization Fund - no questions/concerns

Springdale Youth Boosters - no questions/concerns

Commerce Park TIF - no questions/concerns

Drug Law Enforcement - no questions/concerns

Law Enforcement Fund - no questions/concerns

DUI Fund - no questions/concerns

Law Enforcement Training Fund - no questions/concerns

Insurance Trust Fund - no questions/concerns

Health Insurance Trust Fund - no questions/concerns

Street Improvement Debt Fund - no questions/concerns

Capital Improvement Funds - no questions/concerns

Mr. Hawkins: Capital Improvement Funds budget is rather significant, to give you folks time.

Residential Recycling Fund - no questions/concerns

Tri County Mall TIF Fund - no questions/concerns

Parks and Urban Forestry Fund - no questions/concerns

City of Springdale Council

December 21, 2022

Northwest Business Center TIF Fund	-	no questions/concerns
Unclaimed Monies Fund	-	no questions/concerns
OBBS Assessment Fund	-	no questions/concerns
Fire Insurance Proceeds Fund	-	no questions/concerns
Revenues	-	no questions/concerns

Mr. Hawkins: Any questions or comments regarding Revenues? (None)

Mr. Anderson: I was going to ask a general question at the end. Aside from saying this is exceptional work. Like everyone else has described, I continue to be impressed especially with the department goals and objectives that are in front of each of those. If people haven't taken time to look at those, it's really interesting and telling because it shows the priorities and how the departments are being measured, and then it links right back to the expenditures, which is really impressive to do for any City or any business, especially of our size. My question is just when, assuming it's approved tonight, when could residents expect to see this posted alongside the previous budgets online? I know all the past budgets are on there. When do you expect people to be able to see it?

Mr. Jones: Mr. Williams takes care of getting that up for us. Jeff (Williams) do you mind addressing that for us?

Mr. Anderson: I'm not rushing you, it's just people who watch us page through this don't have the benefit of seeing all the work that's in here, and I just want to make sure you don't get inundated with public records requests when they could just go to the website.

Mr. Williams: We will post that in a timely manner after it is passed. When we pass the ordinance for first meeting of 2023.

Mr. Anderson: Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Williams: I'd say two weeks at least. Within two weeks after that. Getting everything together.

Mr. Anderson: So the middle of January, people could expect it, or the end of January.

Mr. Williams: Yes. That is correct.

Mr. Anderson: Thank you.

Mr. Williams: You're welcome.

Mr. Ramirez: Again, as a member of the Finance Committee, I want to thank Lawrence for running the meeting, but, it's made so easy by Administration putting together such a professional document, and we have over 200 pages here and we just went through the whole thing without one question. So, we could have had a lot of questions, we just could have spent days on this, but all the possible questions and answers are already in this document, so, I want to thank Administration again. Thank you.

President Vanover: Well, I would also say that the Administration does the yeoman's work getting this out ahead so that we can digest it, and get questions prior to, and make our operation much more efficient and timely.

Mayor Webster: As I said at the outset, this is the largest budget we've ever passed and I would also like to congratulate Mr. Hawkins for getting through this in 20 minutes. So, the bigger, the faster it seems like.

## City of Springdale Council

December 21, 2022

Mr. Jones: I'm sorry, just one more comment. Going back to what Mr. Anderson said, referring to the mission statements. A couple of years ago, more than one of our Department Heads said that, "We're doing these and nobody is reading them, and we need to discontinue it. It's just a lot of work." So, I took that to the Mayor and the Mayor said, "Those mission statements will stay", and that was the end of the discussion. So, I appreciate you bringing that up. In fact, Brian (Uhl) and I will make sure at our upcoming staff meeting that we acknowledge that people appreciate it and they are, in fact, being read. So, thanks for the comment.

### Ordinances and Resolutions

#### Ordinance No. 38-2022

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

President Vanover: Alright, Council, this is the third reading, now in final form.

Mr. Anderson made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 38-2022; Mr. Hawkins seconded.

Mr. Braun: I would just remind Council that the version that you're reading today is amended from the way that it appeared in the previous versions in the packet, so, prior to moving to adopt, I would ask that you move to adopt the amendments, and then adopt the amended version of the ordinance. I also just wanted to thank the members of Council. I think almost every person sitting up here, when I was going through my notes and prepared this final version contributed in some way to this. And, I hope that you're happy with the final language that we incorporated that you provided to us. Again, as I was talking about in the prior ordinance, when we get that large amount of participation, sometimes you have to get all the ingredients right, but, I do really like the way this reads, and I hope you do as well. So, thank you.

President Vanover: Well, for housekeeping, let's get the motion to accept the amendments.

Mr. Anderson: Am I still okay to make a motion. I'd like to withdraw my motion to adopt.

Mr. Hawkins: I'll withdraw my second.

Mr. Anderson made a motion to adopt the amendments as read for Ordinance No. 38-2022; Mr. Hawkins seconded.

Mr. Anderson: I have one comment on the amendments. I did want to echo what Mr. Braun said. I especially liked the adjustments that were made. I know there were a lot of, there was a lot of feedback, and when I received the updated ordinance, I was impressed with how you were able to incorporate all of our different ingredients, as you described them into this final product, especially how you adjusted 30.05(M) talking about how we address modern ways of addressing Council, how do you get credible information, the way that it's described here is very understandable for people that would want to understand how to connect with us, so I appreciate the work that went into these amendments. So, thank you for that.

Motion to accept amendments as published for Ordinance No. 38-2022 passes with six affirmative votes. (Mr. Jacobs was absent)

Mr. Anderson made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 38-2022; Mr. Hawkins seconded.

Mrs. Ghantous: I'm in favor of the language. It did turn out really well. I'm going back to what I said the last meeting is about the functionality of it. So, President Vanover, did you give any more thought to a device that would be used. (President Vanover places a sand timer on the dais). I'm happy to see that because, as we're talking about comments from the Council won't go against people's time, so on and so forth. I was just trying to visualize how that was going to go; on, off, on, off. And, so that it's fair, always, but, also so that it cannot be disruptive to the person who is trying to tell us what's on their mind. That eases my mind quite a bit. Thank you so much.

City of Springdale Council

December 21, 2022

Mr. Ramirez: Under Section 2 about identifying the author of the document, will that actually be validated in some way? Are we actually going to call or check the email or phone number or, how do we validate that it's a valid communication from a letter?

Mr. Uhl: I think we're going to take it for face value as long as it looks to be credible. I don't think we're going to do any major digging to verify the identity of the sender, just provided that there's information that we can go back to, to either request follow up or have some kind of dialogue or further correspondence with the sender. As long as it looks like it's credible, we'll move forward with it.

Mr. Ramirez: I just have a vision of the PETA-type situation that we had where we get all these letters with just a phone number on it. Is that going to be valid?

Mr. Uhl: Yes, so, well, in the second section of (M), we talk about anonymous communications and/or things that appear to be bulk in nature. So, if it's form letters that are being sent by different organizations, then there won't be a response.

Mr. Ramirez: Thank you.

Ordinance No. 38-2022 passes with six affirmative votes. (Mr. Jacobs was absent)

Ordinance No. 40-2022

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

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 40-2022; Mrs. Ghantous seconded.

Mr. Braun: I just wanted to make a quick point that under the street and sidewalk fees under street aprons, we did correct a scrivener's error. There's no need to amend under it. There was just a typo that read, "special event" versus "street apron". And we corrected that so the version that you have is correct. I just wanted to make that point in case someone had noticed it. Thank you.

President Vanover: Before Mrs. McNear polls Council, I just wanted to take a moment and thank Mr. Lamping for the work that he put in. This, well, this improves the service to our residents. Those of you who were not privileged to deal with one of our contractors that we have engaged several years. I cannot tell you how happy this makes me. It simplifies the process, and, it brings control then to us. We're not saying, "Well, we're waiting to hear from so and so", and, quite honestly with the projects that we have on the horizon, this is very timely and needed greatly. So, thank you for that.

Ordinance No. 40-2022 passes with six affirmative votes. (Mr. Jacobs was absent)

Ordinance No. 41-2022

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION/ESTIMATED RECEIPTS TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES AND ADJUST ESTIMATED RECEIPTS FOR THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE, OHIO FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 41-2022; Mr. Hawkins seconded.

Ordinance No. 41-2022 passes with six affirmative votes. (Mr. Jacobs was absent)

City of Springdale Council

December 21, 2022

Ordinance No. 42-2022

ADOPTING A TEMPORARY APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2023, UNTIL THE FISCAL YEAR 2023 PERMANENT APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE IS ADOPTED BY CITY COUNCIL

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 42-2022; Mr. Hawkins seconded.

Ordinance No. 42-2022 passes with six affirmative votes. (Mr. Jacobs was absent)

Ordinance No. 43-2022

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 46-2021 AND PROVIDING FOR WAGE INCREASES FOR CERTAIN CITY EMPLOYEES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2023 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mrs. Ghantous made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 43-2022; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded.

Mayor Webster: Yes, just a brief explanation. All the pay grades have been adjusted by two percent, and all of these amounts have been reflected in the budget that you just previously adopted. So, to be consistent with your actions, I would hope you would follow through and pass this.

Mr. Jones: Along with that, again, this is for all non-union employees. Both our Fire and Police union are currently in negotiations with the Administration.

Mr. Anderson: I know last year we talked about the effect inflation and a weird job market had on just hiring in general. We get the reports from Mr. Coleman every month about the work that goes in for applications for a lot of the jobs. Are we still competitive enough that we're getting the right applications and retaining the right people? It feels like we are, but, I just want to make sure if there's something else we need to do or give you so that you can be successful, I mean, obviously, let us know, but, this is enough?

Mr. Jones: Well, I think if we ask the employees, it's never enough. When I say it's not about the money, Mayor, it's always about the money. We're still highly competitive. We've made some small adjustments that we thought were necessary with the support of Civil Service, and, we appreciate that. But, when we look at our Police and Fire as an example, we're not at the top; we're certainly not at the bottom, so we're in between, but, on the upper end. So, yes, we're very competitive, and, we appreciate that. This Council has been extremely supportive of folks getting increases. In fact, this is my fifth year here that you guys have given increases to the staff every year, and I know they appreciate that.

Ordinance No. 43-2022 passes with six affirmative votes. (Mr. Jacobs was absent)

Mr. Hawkins: I was going to make a motion with regard to R25-2022 and R26-2022 to table until our first meeting in January. I don't think there's any business that's going to be conducted by either of those committees at this time and afford the opportunity for all Councilmembers possibly to be present.

Mr. Anderson: Second.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Just to be clear, the only reason that you're wanting to table this is so that we have the full Council, correct? I just want to make sure that we're all on the same page.

Mr. Hawkins: Yes.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Okay. Thank you.

President Vanover: Okay, and, while we're talking about this, we're still looking for nominations on the Springdale Tax Review Board.

City of Springdale Council

December 21, 2022

President Vanover: Do we have to do individual, Mr. Braun to keep everything on table?

Mr. Braun: I asked Mr. Uhl, was the motion for tabling (Resolution No. R) 25-2022 and (Resolution No. R) 26-2022? Or just (Resolution No. R) 25-2022?

President Vanover: Yes.

Mr. Braun: Then, you don't have to vote. They can be tabled together.

President Vanover: Okay.

Resolution No. R25-2022

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING \_\_\_\_\_ TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE CHARTER REVISION COMMITTEE FOR THE TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2027

Resolution No. R26-2022

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING \_\_\_\_\_ TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE TAX REVIEW BOARD FOR THE TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024

Motion to table Resolution No. R25-2022 and Resolution No. R26-2022 until the January 4, 2023 Council meeting passes with six affirmative votes. (Mr. Jacobs was absent)

Resolution No. R27-2022

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF JEFF SINGLETON TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR THE TERM ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 2023

Mrs. Ghantous made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R27-2022; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded.

Mr. Hawkins: I was going to make the same motion to table based on the idea that Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup had indicated that they're not going to meet until February. I know ordinarily they'd have a meeting the second week of January, but, whatever the Council's prerogative is.

Mr. Anderson: I do think this one might be different because it's a Mayoral appointment, and the reason I think it's important to have Mr. Jacobs be present is the opportunity to provide nominations for the two positions that are Council-appointed. So, I'm certainly open to tabling if other people feel it is, but I think this one's different for that reason.

President Vanover: Well, we've got a motion, and a second on the table, so, unless they're wanting to withdraw, we'll continue on.

Resolution No. R27-2022 passes with six affirmative votes. (Mr. Jacobs was absent)

Old Business - None

New Business

Mr. Jones: Very briefly, hopefully you've noticed it's a little brighter in here this evening. We want to thank our Public Works Department. They've changed everything that can be changed without going to outside contractual services. At some point, when we remodel in here, we'll certainly do that, but, I didn't get all the explanation as to why that is, but, we're much brighter now than what we were, and Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup tells me, "Don't ever fix those three out front." There may be some debate on that in the future, but, I did want to point that out, and just briefly, since I have the floor, I just want a special thanks to Stephanie Morgan for all her work, Mr. Uhl, and Mr. Williams and all the Department Heads. Really pleased with how the budget unfolded, and I just wanted to thank you for that opportunity.

## City of Springdale Council

December 21, 2022

Mr. Anderson: Along the same line of the lights and the updates in this room. I think three months ago, we had talked about Administration was looking into audio upgrades, and it was linked to a commitment, or a soft commitment we had made to upgrade our streaming options for the meetings. I know we do something the ICRC, but there was a second, I don't remember what it was; it was Facebook or something. Is there an update that we can get on those updates?

Mr. Uhl: The only update I have is there is no real update to share. We did have some discussion with ICRC. We have been working with a couple of AV (Audio/Visual) vendors. In fact, we've had two of them come through. We have a third one coming in tomorrow to kind of talk about our audio visual equipment to see if there's something else that we could do to enhance some of those, so, as they make suggestions, again, we'll take those back to ICRC, and see if there's something else we can do, but, it's still a work in progress.

Mr. Anderson: That was the mic updates. For what it's worth, I've gotten a lot of positive feedback on the streaming that was turned on several months ago, and we were looking at expanding that, so, if that's still an opportunity for us to do, I think we should continue down that path. So, maybe I'll check back in a couple months, but, it is worthwhile. People are using it, and looking at it, so I think that's important.

Mr. Hawkins: A question for the Administration, or Mr. Braun. Is there a, do we have an ordinance with regard to panhandling on right now, and, if we do not, is there a constitutional way to address that, or is that not an option?

Mr. Braun: When I first came on as your Law Director, we had an issue related to panhandling, and I remember looking at it. I can't remember, as I sit here, what it says, but, I commented at the time that those are ordinances that you have to update regularly because there's been a lot of litigation on what is and isn't acceptable. I'd be happy to look at it and report back to you.

Mr. Hawkins: I would appreciate it. There have been a couple of different locations at Northland and Route 4, as well as I know everybody has seen an individual sometimes on Route 4 right by the (Interstate) 275 exit. But, and Sam's Club as well. But, if there's an opportunity there for us to legislate that, I'd appreciate you checking it out.

Mr. Braun: I will report back to you.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you.

Mr. Jones: Just as a follow up to that. Every time we are contacted and several folks up on the dais here contacts us regarding that, and, when it's witnessed, and we appreciate that, our Police always respond. Basically, at least as things are written at this time, as long as they're not impeding traffic, they have a constitutional right or legal right to be there. But, many times, as soon as they step off the sidewalk, and approach the car, now they're impeding traffic. So, there are some things we can do within the realm of following the law, but, the key word, according to our Police Chief is that they have to be impeding traffic, so, we'll continue to keep an eye on that as Mr. Braun said.

### Meetings and Announcements

Mr. Ramirez: Fireman's Fund, as required by the State of Ohio met December 4<sup>th</sup>. Present were Mr. Anderson, Chief Stanley, myself, and a newly elected resident, Sharon Brenner. Really, it's only a matter of doing our due diligence in meeting once a year. I think the only thing, and, I didn't know if we wanted to bring it up, we haven't had any cases in forever I believe for this fund, but, we did dig up one. There was a fireman that works part-time for the City of Cincinnati, worked a shift here, and went home and had a heart attack and passed away in 2020. So, Mr. Anderson has taken the task of following up on that to see if maybe he's eligible for some of these funds.

City of Springdale Council

December 21, 2022

Mr. Uhl: I would just like to announce that Civil Service will meet in the Council Conference Room on Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. One other announcement that I would like to share. The City has recently migrated our phone service over to Ring Central. If you check your emails, there's probably an email sitting in your inbox regarding account set up. So, there are designated numbers assigned for each Councilmember. I would highly encourage you to log in and get the account set up. It does expire in 48 hours. I had everyone, or had Ring Central re-send the announcement or welcome email this afternoon, so it should be there. It takes just a couple of minutes to get set up. It does offer a lot more mobile functionality than what the Mitel system had, and also allows to text through the City-assigned phone number as well. So, if you do have any issues or problems with it, feel free to get a hold of myself or Anthony Pagan. We'll be happy to walk you through it. Additionally, if you can't get to it and the welcome announcement expires, feel free to get a hold of one of us, and, we can re-send it so that you can get re-set.

Communications from the Audience - None

Update on legislation still in development

Mr. Hawkins: As you review your Internal Memorandum, Item Number I was addressed with Ordinance No. 38-2022; An Ordinance Amending Chapter 30 of the Springdale Code of Ordinances Governing Procedures at City Council Meetings which, as amended, passed with a 6-0 vote. Item Number II 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 passed with a 6-0 vote. Item Number III was addressed with Ordinance No. 41-2022; An Ordinance Adopting the Final Appropriation and Transfer Ordinance for 2022, which passed with a 6-0 vote. Item Number IV was addressed with Ordinance No. 42-2022; An Ordinance Adopting a Temporary Appropriations Ordinance for the Period January 1, 2023 until the Fiscal Year 2023 Permanent Appropriation Ordinance is Adopted by City Council. That passed with a 6-0 vote. Item Number V was addressed with Ordinance No. 43-2022; An Ordinance Repealing Ordinance 46-2021 and Providing for Wage Increases for Certain City Employees Effective January 1, 2023 and Declaring an Emergency. That passed with a 6-0 vote. Item Number VI was tabled. Item Number VII passed with a 6-0 vote with regard to Planning Commission appointment. All other matters were forthcoming.

Recap of legislative items requested for next Council meeting

Mr. Hawkins: We have an Ordinance Adopting the Annual Appropriations/Estimated Receipts for Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2023. We have A Resolution Authorizing the Investment of Municipal Funds. A request for A Resolution Requesting Advance Payment from the County Auditor. We also have Resolutions Confirming Charter Revision, as well as Tax Review Board, and possibly the Nuisance Ordinance as well.

Mr. Anderson: I was just going to make sure we included that ordinance enacting Chapter 139 Abatement of Chronic Property Nuisances.

President Vanover: Before we go to Item number 17, I'd just like to take this brief time to wish all of our neighbors, and fellow residents, and their families a Merry Christmas, and wishes for a blessed New Year. And, we will be back in it shortly thereafter.

Adjournment

Mr. Hawkins made a motion to adjourn; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McNear  
Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Minutes Approved:  
Tom Vanover, President of Council

\_\_\_\_\_, 2023