

City of Springdale Council

October 16, 2024

President of Council Anderson called Council to order on October 16, 2024.

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

President Anderson provided the Invocation.

Mrs. Browder took roll call. Council members Anderson, Gleaves, Jacobs, McFarland, Sullivan-Wisecup, Vanover, and Webster were present.

The minutes of the October 2, 2024 meeting were considered. Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup made a motion to accept the minutes; Mr. Gleaves seconded. The minutes were approved with seven affirmative votes.

Committee and Official Reports

Civil Service Commission

Mr. Coleman: Good evening Council. The Springdale Civil Service Commission did meet on October 3rd in the Municipal Building, and present was Mrs. McNear, and myself along with City Administrator, Mr. Uhl, Assistant City Administrator, Ms. Morgan, and Chief Building Official, Ms. Hays. Following the disposition of the minutes, and the approval of those minutes, we had a few different reports that we wanted to review and update. The first one was the Public Works Inspector hiring process. There were nine applications received, and, what's significant here, is that three of those candidates are internal candidates, and, so, we're always excited to know that we have individuals internally being considered for promotions, and for new opportunities. So, again, those positions are still being reviewed, and phone interviews were taking place as well. Again, what was significant though, was that we had three internal candidates out of the nine applications. Also, on unfinished business, there were two different job descriptions that were under review. One was a Public Works Inspector, and the other one was the Assistant Director of Public Works. I'd like to thank Ms. Morgan for her efforts in putting that information together. The finalized descriptions were presented to the Civil Service Commission, and, Ms. McNear made a motion to approve the Public Works Inspector and the Assistant Director Public Works job description as they were presented, and was seconded by Mr. Coleman, and that motion did pass 2-0. On the New Business side of things, the Building Inspector hiring process timeline, within this particular area, Administration had requested a new hiring process as a result of the positions still being open, and we agreed that these positions would be open until filled in order to garner additional candidates. There were 12 applications that were still in the Administration review, but there was a need to have additional individuals to be looked at and given that consideration as part of the process. Even though there were some individuals that were still being reviewed, and being looked at, they felt it was necessary to go ahead and open it up and see what other new candidates we could get. With that information, that concludes my report.

Rules and Laws

Mr. Jacobs

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No report

Finance Committee

Mr. Vanover: Finance Committee met on October 2nd. All members were present, as well as the Administration. We had a request and presentation from the Fire Department to approve the purchase of a new ambulance. That is reflected in Ordinance No. 56-2024, which we are asking for Council's support of that. And, the other item was the request to explore a new depository with Fifth Third due to better technological processing of our City business, and, that was granted, so, with that, that would conclude my report.

City of Springdale Council

October 16, 2024

Planning Commission

Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup: Planning Commission met on October 8th. We only had one applicant, which was Application 20240515, City Center Springdale, or, formerly, Tri County Mall. They came for a Major Modification to the PUD. We did find that it was a Major Modification because their plan is to demo everything first, and, we did grant them all of the same uses that they had before, except for a school and a community center, so, they have all the same uses that we gave them last time that a group came for Tri County minus those two. And, it will be before us for the first and second reading in November.

President Anderson: Just a question on that. So, the PUD was already approved for all those uses. Did Planning Commission recommend removing those, or it just wasn't part of their submission.

Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup: They were saying basically that they wanted all the same things that the owners had previously had, so they listed all of the conditions, so, it was just basically for a simple thing, instead of listing everything that they wanted, since most people up here are familiar with it and, honestly, most people at home are as well. It's just easier to eliminate the two that we did grant them before that we no longer are on the PUD.

President Anderson: Alright. Thank you. Any other questions for Planning? (None) Council, you should have seen in your packets the letter from Planning Commission that showed that approval, and that will be something that we'll see at our meeting next month.

Board of Zoning Appeals	Mr. Gleaves	-	No report
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Board of Health

Mr. Jacobs: The Board of Health met on October 10th. It was a relatively brief meeting. We have hired a new part-time health specialist. There were updates on continued workforce development grants, which, with my experience with the Board of Health, have been just phenomenal in seeking grant money. There will be more workforce development grants on the way. Another grant, is received for electronic health record maintenance, which will update some of our health records systems. And, just as a summary, there's been \$420,000 in workforce development grants last year alone, just as an update. Commissioner Clayton gave kudos to his staff for another successful Health Fair. Vaccine for Children Program Update; there were five clinics, 56 recipients of shots, and there were 176 vaccines given. There's also five home visits provided to members of the Community for things like blood pressure screenings. As a random update, six and a half Narcan doses were delivered in September, and then, the last item is an annual procedure where they have to adopt regulations to update fee schedules for hotels, swimming pools, and restaurants. Those get three readings before they can be approved, so, each of those regulations received a second reading. That concludes my report, unless there's any questions.

Capital Improvements	Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup	-	No report
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O-K-I

President Anderson: OKI Board of Directors did meet on October 10th. There are three items that I wanted to share with Council from that meeting. The first is one that is for Council and the public at large. There's an opportunity to share feedback on the transportation plan for the region, specifically targeted for people with disabilities and seniors. There's an online survey that they can fill out. It's at <https://bit.ly/okicoplan>. There's a few questions there that talk about access, and it helps steer the money that would be used to provide additional funds for

City of Springdale Council

October 16, 2024

President Anderson (continued): programs that help seniors and disabled people with disabilities to get around our Community. There's also a virtual meeting on that topic on November 13th from 2:00 p.m. until 3:30 p.m., and there's a virtual meeting option if anyone wants to watch, you can get to that through the OKI website. The second thing I wanted to share was there's an OKI housing data dashboard that's being rolled out, if not already, in the next couple of weeks. One of the things that's really interesting about this, we saw we had a market housing survey here. We had a consultant come and do that for us. This is one that's done at a regional level and it actually can be drilled down to specific cities. One of the things that's interesting about it, aside from it being public, is there's some interesting data in there that you can drill into and look. You can look at things like housing stock, income levels. They did some interesting things with some of the census data. It's a lot of that same data we saw on our consultant survey, but it's a little bit more user-friendly, and interactive. You can get to that, if you want to poke around with it when it's published. It will be on the OKI site. It just gives you a good idea of what our Community has available, and, also, some of our surrounding communities so you can see what we're competing against. I know our Economic Development Director oftentimes has access to this data, so, it might be interesting to just look at some of that data and see what the rest of the world sees us as. And, then, the last thing is more of an exciting announcement. As part of the OKI meeting, we did vote to approve a number of electrical chargers. You remember in past meetings I talked about that being something we should submit grants for. Administration had done that and we did vote as a Board to approve electrical chargers for Springdale. The amount of \$480,000 grant that was approved at that last meeting. That would cover eight Level 2 chargers, and one DC fast charger at two different sites; Springdale Municipal, Fire/Police, Elementary, Parks and Rec. So, that money is going to be available for us, and, it's actually really cool that we're able to do that. So, I appreciate Administration taking the time because it was actually the third largest grant inside the program that Springdale got, so, we scored very well in the process, which, I think, is great. Thank you for that. That's it for OKI, unless there's any questions.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Hawkins: Just a few things. I want to start piggybacking on what Mr. Jacobs had said with regard to the Health Fair. We had the Health Fair on September 26th. Commissioner Clayton, staff, Nurse Ewing-Jackson, as well as Mrs. Boggs, and the rest of staff from the Health Department, did an outstanding job. A lot of information and opportunities for service were present there. Just a few things that they had were COVID shots, flu shots, ProScan was there for MRI information. They will actually even do free transportation if you qualify. Things that a lot of folks probably not familiar with. The Hamilton County Alert for 911 information, Closing Health Gap was there to assist with care for caregivers. They also had diabetes treatment, AmeriHealth Caritas was there. They help with GED's, pain management, vision/dental care, as well as weight management, as well as transportation, housing, school uniforms. They had the mosquito and tick education there as well. And, I learned that only female mosquitos bite. So, I learned something there too. Lincoln Heights Pharmacy was there supported by The HealthCare Connection. Council on Aging was there, Spring Grove Funeral Home. There was some insurance advisors there, Cincinnati Recycling, and the mobile mammography bus and 513 Hamilton County bus were all there offering and given health treatment. So, it was an excellent event. Mr. Clayton did a great job. It's a great thing for folks to come out as a resource. On October 1st, we opened our time capsule, and we had Mayor Webster here, and Cecil Osborne was here. Folks who had put those things in place back then. There were a number of items inside. There was a history book, a newsletter, bicentennial Police badge, lapel pins, and an invitation to a 2006 Taste of Springdale. Promotional videos from 1990 and 1995. Some aerial photos to name a few. There's also a letter in there from Mayor Webster to the Citizens of Springdale. The idea had been raised, I know, by at least one Council member,

City of Springdale Council

October 16, 2024

Mayor Hawkins (continued): and some Administrative staff, of potentially doing another time capsule in maybe January 2025 to be put out to be opened maybe January 2050. So, something for folks to think about, and Mr. Uhl had said, much like Mayor Webster had written a letter if folks decide to do that, all of our Elected Officials could write letters to future elected officials as well. It could be looked at 25 years from now. So, something to think about as we move forward. Nothing we have to do just this second. And, last we have is, we're getting close to Halloween. We have the Kids Spooky Boo Bash this Saturday at the Rec Center, October 19th, from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. There'll be costume and pumpkin contests, a haunted room, and games. Children ten and under must wear a costume for admittance. Parents are encouraged, but not forced to wear a costume. Hope folks come out and enjoy that event. That concludes my report.

President Anderson: Mr. Gleaves, did you have a question?

Mr. Gleaves: Yes, Mayor Hawkins, I was out of town. I missed the Health Expo. How was the turnout for that?

Mayor Hawkins: The turnout was fantastic. The booths lined the whole outside of the old gym, and then they also had a ring inside the gym, and it was very well attended. Also, we had three different mobile units that were outside, and they were giving services, and folks were there too. There was also, I think, the Veterans van was there too. So, it was great, and, a great opportunity for folks to learn that some of these will come out to them if they need help or get transportation to them. So, excellent event.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Uhl: Just a quick update. We were notified last week that our original grant, State Capital Appropriations Bill Request from 2022 that we couldn't fund the rest of the project. We asked for an extension that was included in the past in the 2024 appropriations budget, so we received just under \$75,000, but, that money is going to be used for some capital improvements back at the Community Center. We're going to put in ADA-compliant bathrooms outside behind the concession stand, and, also make some repairs to the concrete bleachers there by Field 4, so, those will be upcoming, and I think the plan is to hopefully get those started and finished before the end of this year. That's the end of my report.

Law Director's Report

Mr. Braun

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No report

Engineer's Report

Mr. Riggs: So, we're moving along on Northland. As you may have noticed, Olde Gate intersection was closed earlier this week. Scheduled to be closed for about three weeks. The contractor believes it may be open sooner, but, the contractor is also planning to switch over traffic here in the next two months or so, so, sometime around the end of the year, or shortly after, they will be switching traffic on to the newly constructed eastbound lanes, again, that will probably happen towards the end of the year. Then, right next door, along Tri County Parkway, the sidewalk work; the contractor reached out to me this week, actually this afternoon, about potentially starting the plantings next week, and then beginning work probably on the sidewalk installation sometime in November, but the contract completion date is December 20th, so, they don't have much time. And, that's all I have.

City of Springdale Council

October 16, 2024

Rental Program Committee

Mr. Vanover: The Rental Committee met on September 30th. We reviewed potential parking permit program. It's still sitting there, but, we have sent the Heritage Hill parking report back to our engineer, TEC, for some additional questions and review on effects of the potential one way, and, we are hoping to have that back here towards the end of the month, and, reconvene to evaluate our next step. That would conclude my report.

Urban Farming Special Committee

Ms. McFarland: We did complete all of our research and work, and, we have submitted a recommendation to Council. It is going to go to Planning first for review, and, then we should see that probably late November, early December.

Communications

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None

Communications from the Audience

Mr. Card: Good evening, Mr. Mayor, and Council. I'm Elgin Card, Superintendent of Princeton City Schools, so, thank you for giving me a few minutes. Just wanted to come and talk real quickly about our five mil levy which will be on November 5th for operating. If you remember, back in 2019, we passed a levy that the community was gracious enough to support us. And, told them we would be back in 2022, now, we're back here in 2024. That was with some tightening and with the extra funds didn't hurt as well, so, that's going there. So, just wanted to give a few facts about that. What I do want to tell you too is, back in 2018, we were a failing district. And, the Superintendent at the time, and the Administration and everybody said, "We're going to do better". And, we have done better; we're a four star district now, out of five. This is the second year in a row. And, like I tell people all the time, getting up there is hard; staying up there is even harder, and, we have done that. Your elementary here, right across the way, is a five star. All our elementary schools are four stars; all of them, except Lincoln Heights went from a 2.5 to a 3.5. So, we exceed State standards in almost every area, and the District does as well. We also were able to beat our chronic absenteeism, which is very hard right now because, for any absence, it counts against you, whether it's excused or not excused. What that shows me is that our staff and our people are doing a good job. Our kids want to be in school, along with our parents; it's really important for our parents to be there as well. I do want to tell you, we are having community conversations. I just left one in Evendale. We have three more left. We have had three. We will have one next Tuesday, October 22nd at Evendale Cultural Arts Center, from 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., one on Wednesday, the 23rd at Woodlawn Rec Center, and then one on Tuesday, the 29th at the Springdale Rec Center. So, if anybody in the Community, or any of you would like to come, what that will look like is we'll talk about the things going on in the district, we talk about our report card, we'll talk about our finances with Ms. Poetter, our Treasurer, and then we'll talk about some of the academic things we've done as well, and some of the safety things we've done to make our schools safer. And then, we'll take a little bit of time for questions if they have those. If you have questions in the meantime, you can always email me, and I will get back to you. If I don't know the answer, I will find the answer for you because, sometimes the Finance stuff, I ask Ms. Poetter on that. That's her specialty. My specialty is the education piece. So, I want to say, "Thank you" for allowing me to have a few words, and hope you have a great evening. Take care.

President Anderson: I always feel like there needs to be a "Go Vikes" at any of those kinds of things. I know that's not you. But, I don't think the call is ever ended unless I get and "As always, 'Go Vikes'".

City of Springdale Council

October 16, 2024

Mr. Card: And, as always, "Go Vikes!"

President Anderson: Thank you Superintendent. I appreciate you indulging me on that. As an alumni, I take it very seriously.

Mr. Gleaves: Mr. Card, thank you for coming down. I have one question. I know Princeton used to be open enrollment. Is it still open enrollment?

Mr. Card: Yes, we have open enrollment, but, there is a committee that approves open enrollment. So, what I love about what Princeton does, when I got here, because other places I've been just let people in. What we do is they have to fill out a form, we look at their academics, their behavior, their attendance; what are they bringing to Princeton. Because we have so many great kids, we want to make sure that anybody that we let come to Princeton are going to be beneficial to our Community. So, that's what we do now.

Mr. Gleaves: Well, you guys do a great job. Thank you very much.

Mr. Card: Thank you.

Mr. Jacobs: Just a quick question. At the previous listening sessions that you've had, have they been well attended?

Mr. Card: Sharonville was very well attended last night. Evendale had a few, and then we were at St. Monica's Center in Lincoln Heights, and Woodlawn had a few.

Mr. Jacobs: And, at the previous ones, has there been time for questions?

Mr. Card: Yes.

Mr. Jacobs: Great.

Mr. Card: We fielded probably about, tonight, we took quite a few, probably four or five from people, and then last night, probably four or five as well. We leave about 15 minutes and then, today I didn't stay after because I wanted to get over here. But they didn't have any. Last night, I stayed after and answered some individual questions that the people had, and then I had an email today. I was out of the office in Columbus for something, but, I will get back to her. I emailed her "I'm out of town, I'll get back to you tomorrow." We're going to answer the questions and, like I said, if I don't know the answer, we'll find it real quick. Because there's a few questions they asked that was historical, well, it's my third time in the district, but, I don't know back in the 70's, so we had to look some of that up.

Mr. Jacobs: Thank you.

Mr. Card: Mayor Hawkins might, I don't know. (laughter)

President Anderson: I appreciate it. Thank you for coming out and sharing that information with us.

Mr. Card: Thank you sir.

City of Springdale Council

October 16, 2024

Mr. Anderson: For what it's worth, I think in our past two meetings, I think Mayor Hawkins had shared the dates for the open houses too, and we certainly encourage anyone to go out and ask questions if they have it. The school district has been a great partner for Springdale, and we certainly love our elementary school and all the staff there. They're well respected and loved here. Whatever we can do to help.

Mr. Coleman: Robert Coleman, citizen. I noticed on the Enquirer website that I didn't see trick or treat hours for Springdale. I saw for all the other neighborhoods, and all the other municipalities, but, I didn't see it for Springdale, so, my question is what are the hours, and, I guess the second part if is there a reason why Springdale's hours didn't appear with all the other communities.

President Anderson: Putting him on the spot. Is it 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., or 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Uhl: I believe 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. is what we've historically done in the City. As to why it wasn't published, we're not sure exactly. So, that could have been that I wonder if that was something that wasn't passed along, or wasn't requested by us, or if it was another media release that was directly sent to the media outlets. That's possible as well. Either way, we'll get something posted since it wasn't.

Mr. Coleman: I was kind of hoping that Ms. Morgan would answer that question because I figured she had the right answers better than anybody. (laughter)

President Anderson: Mr. Coleman, at the end of the night if you still have candy left, please feel free to throw it over the fence. I have three boys, and we'll take care of it for you.

Mr. Coleman: I'll leave it out by your wood stack.

President Anderson: I appreciate that.

Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance No. 56-2024

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A PROPOSAL UNDER THE STATE OF OHIO COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH HORTON EMERGENCY VEHICLES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$362,830 FOR THE PURCHASE OF A NEW AMBULANCE

President Anderson: Council, this was the first reading of Ordinance No. 56-2024. Are there any questions or discussion for tonight?

Mr. Vanover: Just to fill in our audience, there's a 24 month, at least 24 month lead time on this. So, actually, we've got one in the works, and they just, well two weeks, ago, assigned the VIN number. I don't know if they've gotten the chassis yet or not. So, the lead time is what this is, and, we don't pay for it until we take possession of it, so, even though it says we're paying, we don't pay for it until we take possession of it. And, hopefully, that 24 months turnaround is quicker, but, with current history going, I wouldn't hold my breath.

President Anderson: Any other questions or discussion on this ordinance? (None) Alright, we'll see this again at our next meeting.

City of Springdale Council

October 16, 2024

Executive Session – Pending or Imminent Litigation and Economic Development Issues

Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup: I would like to make a motion to go to Executive Session through Ohio Revised Code, Section 121.22(G)(3) to conference with Council related to pending or imminent litigation, as well as under Article II(D)(1) of the Springdale Charter to discuss economic development issues.

President Anderson: Is there a second?

Mr. Gleaves: Second.

President Anderson: Questions or discussion about moving to Executive Session? (None) Seeing none, Mrs. Browder, would you poll Council on moving to Executive Session.

Motion to move to Executive Session through Ohio Revised Code, Section 121.22(G)(3) to conference with Council related to pending or imminent litigation, as well as under Article II(D)(1) of the Springdale Charter to discuss economic development issues passes with seven affirmative votes. Council departed at 7:32 p.m. Council returned at 8:26 p.m.

Old Business

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None

New Business – Board and Commissions Nomination Process Discussion

President Anderson: There's one item that was included in the agenda for New Business, and that was discussion for Boards and Commissions nomination process. This is just a reminder to folks that, in our January meeting, the first meeting of January, there's a couple of board positions that will be expiring, so, you should have received in your packet the current board list, so, take a look at that. If you have any questions about the process that we use, it will be the same as in previous years, at least for the Council appointed ones. Council will bring forward their nominations, state whatever qualifications they think are relevant, and go through that normal nominating process for those positions. So, if there's any questions about that, feel free to reach out, but, you've got that, and that will happen in the first meeting in January. Speaking to the first meeting in January, there's another item I wanted to bring forward, and that is the first Wednesday in January is actually January 1st. So, the questions before Council is do you want to have our first meeting in January on New Year's Day? That's currently where that falls. So, we have the option to keep it at 7:00 on that New Year's Day, or, we could move it by one day and have our first meeting be pushed to January 2nd. So, I didn't know what people thought about that. I know Administration has asked if we would consider moving it just because it's a holiday, and having people come in on their holiday seems unnecessary if we don't need to.

Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup: Do we need to do a motion?

President Anderson: We don't need to do a motion tonight. It's more just feedback. If we want to do that, we can fix it and start publicizing that.

Ms. McFarland: I'm okay to move it.

City of Springdale Council

October 16, 2024

President Anderson: Is anyone opposed to moving it? (none) So, we'll take care of it. Let's just go ahead and plan on the first meeting in January being moved to the 2nd. If we need to do a motion at our next meeting to make that official, we can. We can check on that. But, let's assume that our first meeting in January will be on the 2nd at the same time here. Any questions or discussion about those two items? (none)

Meetings and Announcements

Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup: Planning Commission will meet in these chambers on Tuesday, November 12th at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Gleaves: The Board of Zoning Appeals will be meeting October 22nd in these chambers at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Hawkins: Just another reminder as indicated by Superintendent Card, there will be a meeting regarding the school levy for information on October 29th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Rec Center. People are welcome to come and ask questions and learn more about that situation. Thank you.

Mr. Gleaves: I do have one announcement. I wanted to make sure that I shouted out Springdale Fire Department if I may. This past Saturday, in our neighborhood, my neighbor's yard was smoldering, and, my wife called the Fire Department. They came immediately. They got there within five minutes. And, quickly assessed the area, and eliminated the fire. But, what the problem was, and I think that everybody needs to understand we have a severe drought that has gone on for a long time. There was a cigarette that was put out by someone who was doing work on my neighbor's home. With the severe straight line winds that we had Saturday, a chemical reaction started the fire. So, what I'd like to say to everybody up here and everybody out there, be very careful when you're dealing with fire at this time. Shout out to the Fire Department. They took the time to educate my neighbors who gathered around to let everybody know what situation we're in. It's very serious, so be very, very careful, and thank you to the Springdale Fire Department.

Communications from the Audience - None

Recap of Legislative Items

Mr. Jacobs: As you review your Legislative Summary, Item Number II was addressed by Ordinance No. 56-2024; An Ordinance Accepting a Proposal Under the state of Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Program and Authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator To Enter Into an Agreement with Horton Emergency Vehicles in the Amount of \$362,830 for the Purchase of a New Ambulance. That received a first reading and Council will see that for a second reading on November 6, 2024.

City of Springdale Council

October 16, 2024

Legislation in Development

Mr. Jacobs: Item Number III; An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to Enter Into an Agreement with a Consultant for the City of Springdale Safe Streets and Roads for All Safety Action Plan will be on the agenda for the November 6, 2024 meeting for a first reading. Item Number I; An Ordinance Amending Section 153.252(F)(6)(c) of the Springdale Code of Ordinances Regulating the Husbandry of Fowl, Rabbits and Bees will be forthcoming at a November meeting likely the second November meeting. Unless there's anything else coming from Administration.

Adjournment

President Anderson: Think all that's left is Item 17.

Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup: Move to adjourn.

President Anderson: We're adjourned. Thank you everyone.

Council adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Browder
Clerk of Council

Minutes Approved:
Jeffrey Anderson, President of Council

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