

City of Springdale Council

May 7, 2025

President of Council Anderson called Council to order on May 7, 2025.

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

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

President Anderson: Council, before we get started with the rest of the agenda, I'd like to take a moment of silent reflection in memory of Hamilton County Deputy Larry Henderson who was struck by a vehicle and killed while working a traffic detail at the University of Cincinnati Spring Commencement this past week. As a public servant, we mourn his loss.

The minutes of the April 16, 2025, meeting were considered. Mr. Vanover made a motion to accept the minutes; Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded. The minutes were approved with seven affirmative votes.

Proclamation – Police Week

Mayor Hawkins presented Police Chief Butler with a proclamation for Police Week which will be May 12-18, 2025.

Introduction and Swearing-in of Police Department Employees

Mayor Hawkins swore in Jeremy Beckwith (applause).

Chief Butler: Mayor Hawkins just swore in Jeremy Beckwith. I've had the pleasure of knowing Jeremy for several years. He is another transfer from Hamilton County. He makes us wholly full. Jeremy is a lifelong resident of Cincinnati. He is married to the love of his life, Laura Beckwith. Laura is a detective for Hamilton County also. So, there's some animosity here with the family as to which department is better. Laura and Jeremy have two healthy boys age 14 and 17 who are already taller than him. The Beckwith family has several acres of land in Whitewater Township. They enjoy playing with their dogs and raising chickens. It's a new hobby of Jeremy's. Jeremy was an infantryman in the United States Army in the 101st Airborne. Served from 2003 through 2004 during the invasion of Iraq, and Operation Enduring Freedom in 2005 and 2006. He completed his tour in 2007. He was a drill instructor in the Army. Served for 21 years. He was a veteran of the Hamilton County Sheriff's office. He started in corrections in 2007. Served 18 years in a multitude of roles from patrol, bomb squad, SWAT Team, region narcotics, and most recently before coming to us, he was part of the FBI Task Force. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to Springdale and we're glad to have him. (applause)

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Chief Butler: Next, I'd like to introduce our three new administrative hires. Ladies, if you would come forward. First will be Lisa Selm. Lisa is a lifelong resident of Cincinnati. She's a graduate of West High. She's a mustang. Before joining Springdale, she served for 35 years with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office. She was my Administrative Assistant in the Courthouse where we took her from. She is a very valuable resource to us, and always willing to help and jump in no matter what the job is, and I think she's up here a lot asking for more work, so, we'll have to find her some more. Next on my right, your left, Council, is Karen Owens. Karen is also a resident of Cincinnati, and a graduate of William Henry Harrison High School. She attended Mt. St. Joe. Karen, before getting into the law enforcement world, worked at Fifth Third. Then, she spent 12 years at Hamilton County Communications Center where she rose to be a supervisor where I had a long-standing relationship working with her for many years on nights. Karen stepped away from law enforcement for a little bit and went into the private world and decided she wanted to come back. She missed the family and attitude here, I guess. She resides with her husband and her adult children, and one grandchild. And enjoys playing Texas Hold'Em. You might recognize the young lady in the middle. She comes back to us; Judy Vogelsang. She was with the Springdale Police Department for a couple of years and decided to step out into the private world, then decided to come back. She's a lifelong resident of Cincinnati, and a graduate of Colerain High School. She attended Antonelli College where she studied photography. Judy worked in the photo lab industry for years at the Kroger Company before coming to Springdale. We're glad to welcome her back. (applause)

Mayor Hawkins: Thank you Chief and we appreciate everything that everyone does in our department to keep us safe. It's the toughest job there is out there to do. So, we thank you. I heard you guys get cake, so I might try and get out of this meeting early to go get some myself.

Proclamation – Building Safety Month

Mayor Hawkins presented Melissa Hays with a proclamation declaring May 2025 Building Safety Month. (applause)

President Anderson: You didn't have the same fanfare the previous commission did, but I will point out that you get a month, and they only get a week. It is important work, and I think we'll be spending a lot of time over the next year too in updating some of the Building Code, so there's a lot of work to do around here. But thank you.

Mayor Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. President.

President Anderson: I actually neglected, there was a request that I'd like to take care of it administratively before we move on with the agenda. Administration has asked to add an item to the agenda. To add an Executive Session for Economic Development. So, the Chair is looking for a motion to modify the agenda to add that.

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Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup: So moved.

Mr. Jacobs: Second.

Motion to add Executive Session for Economic Development passes with seven affirmative votes.

President Anderson: We'll go ahead and insert that planned Executive Session as "8a". So, after ordinances and resolutions, we'll have that executive session. We'll have to vote to go into Executive Session.

Communications	-	None
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Communications from the Audience	-	None
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Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance No. 10-2025

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 153.252(F)(6)(a)(i) OF THE SPRINGDALE CODE OF ORDINANCES REGULATING THE PERMITTED NUMBER OF DOMESTICATED PETS

Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 10-2025; Mr. Gleaves seconded.

Mr. Vanover: I have walked through this and, to be up front, I'm not going to support. I think this is a band aid. I think we really need to go in and take these animals out of the building code. It should be in a separate arena, and, quite honestly, I think cats should be removed completely. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) considers them as companion animals. They're not licensed. And I think if we're really going to do an honest job. Instead of kicking the can down the road and piecemeal, I think that we need to get with Planning Commission and Building Department and do this right. Once and for all.

Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup: In Planning Commission that was definitely discussed and there were several members that also felt the same that you do, that this needs to be taken out of Building Code. When this code was first made, when it was first put into effect it was back when people had doghouses in their backyards. So, if you had five or six dogs, or whatever, it was a huge nuisance because they'd be out all night, because dogs weren't allowed in at night; they were in doghouses. So, now that's a little bit different. Animals tend to be more inside, and the outside is the accessory use if they need to go to the bathroom. So, times have changed and that's where Planning Commission looked at this as it needs to change with the times as well. But they also said that it should probably be taken out of land use and that basically this was to give relieve for those who do have more animals now while Council considers putting together a committee to look at this and take it out of Code and look at other code as well. Thank you.

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President Anderson: I will say that from my understanding, I know Mr. Vanover described it as a band aid; this is one step that has been proposed by Council. In the meantime, I know that I've spoken with Administration over the past month or two around Planning to do a wider update, recognizing the feedback from Planning that there's probably more things that need to be adjusted. I don't believe that any of those things are affected by this change in the meanwhile. So, all those other changes can still happen. This is, as Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup said, an opportunity to provide some relief. In the meanwhile, it has gone through Planning Commission, it did receive an approval from them, and I do respect that as well. So, even in that discussion in Planning, while there was an "ask" to look at wider things, and maybe we should take out of the Building Code, what we have to look at tonight is just this ordinance that has gone through the process. I think it's important to recognize the work that has been done to get it to this point. It was a collaborative effort between Council, Administration, and Planning, and several departments in Planning to get it to this point. I don't see anything here that would negatively affect that work that we would do in the future. So, I certainly support the change because it is the kind of thing that a future change would likely also include even if it were to move out. So, with that, are there any other questions or discussion on this ordinance that we're voting on tonight.

Ordinance No. 10-2025 passes with five affirmative votes and two opposing votes (Vanover, Webster)

Ordinance No. 18-2025

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO AN LPA FEDERAL LOCAL-LET PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION RELATED TO THE INSTALLATION OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. Vanover made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 18-2025; Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded.

Ordinance No. 18-2025 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Ordinance No. 19-2025

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A ZONING MAP AMENDMENT TO REZONE THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1171 EAST KEMPER ROAD FROM OFFICE BUSINESS (OB) TO PUBLIC FACILITY (PF)

President Anderson: Council, that was the first reading of Ordinance No. 19-2025. Are there any questions or discussion tonight? (None) I'd just like to confirm with Administration that we're set to have the Public Hearing at our next meeting, May 21st? Seeing no other lights, we'll see this again at our next meeting, and we'll also have our Public Hearing related to this at our next Council meeting.

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Ordinance No. 20-2025

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO A WRITTEN AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE OPERATION, CONTROL, AND MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC SIGNAL EQUIPMENT IN THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE

President Anderson: Council, that was the first reading of Ordinance No. 20-2025. Are there any questions or discussion on this tonight?" (None) Seeing none, we will see this again at our next meeting.

Ordinance No. 21-2025

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING AND ADOPTING THE 2025 S-28 SUPPLEMENT TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE, OHIO

President Anderson: Council, that was the first reading of Ordinance No. 21-2025. Are there questions or discussions this evening? I will bring one item to the front on this. I know in the Administrator's Report, it had indicated an "ask" for an emergency clause to be added to this after our second reading. So, it's not going to speed up the readings. It would just simply allow the changes to take effect on signature. Is that still the case Administration would prefer that just for orderly maintenance? Yes. So, we can either make that amendment tonight, or we could do it in advance of the next meeting, if anyone would like that. If anyone has a preference, you should say that now. The Chair is open to a motion to amend to add the emergency clause and a relevant section for that states the reason for the emergency.

Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup: I would like to make a motion to add the emergency clause and reasoning to the second reading of Ordinance No. 21-2025.

Mr. Gleaves: Second.

President Anderson: Any questions or discussion about what the amendment would be?

Motion to amend Ordinance No. 21-2025 to add the emergency clause and the related section forward to describe the reason for the emergency passes with seven affirmative votes.

President Anderson: You'll have an updated version of this in your packets for next time, and, if there's any question about what those changes are, we can deal with them at our next meeting. The other thing I'll point out is that if you haven't had an opportunity to review the S-28, it's something where you'd have to come into the office to see it just because there's so much printing. I know in the past when I've done it, they would give you the section that would be updated, and the large book of law so that you could see the changes side-by-side. It only takes a few minutes to run through it. So, I would encourage everyone to do that if you haven't done that yet in advance of our next meeting.

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Resolution No. R11-2025

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE'S PARTICIPATION IN THE OHIO ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC TREASURERS 2026 WORKERS' COMPENSATION GROUP RETROSPECTIVE RATING PROGRAM

Mr. Vanover made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R11-2025; Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded.

Resolution No. R11-2025 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Executive Session – Economic Development

Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup: I would like to make a motion under Article II(D)(i) of the Springdale Charter to discuss Economic Development issues.

Mr. Vanover: Second.

Motion to go into Executive Session for Economic Development issues passed with seven affirmative votes. Council departed chambers at 7:34 p.m. Council returned to chambers at 7:48 p.m.

Old Business

Application Process for Council-Appointed Committee Vacancies

President Anderson: Next on our agenda we have one item of old business that was published on the agenda which was the application process for Council-Appointed Committee Vacancies. Council, we talked about this at our last meeting, and I asked that we think about if we wanted to make a change to the way Council collected volunteers or applicants for the positions that come in from time to time. So, at this point, this is your opportunity to either be a proponent of it or give feedback if it's something that we should pursue. What I would propose is that we do add an application process for all the Council-appointed vacancies that we would keep online as an open application, and that application would allow people to either through the website, or through paper form be able to submit their name, and provide some information about their background, and why they would be a good fit for any of our vacancies that then Council could pull from ahead of those vacancies. So, we could then rather than just having side conversations, or reaching out to members of the Community, we would just simply be able to encourage people. We could still do that, but, then encourage them to go to the same place to apply so that when we're doing those applications for vacancies, we all have a piece of information, and we have that ahead of time rather than hearing about it possibly for the first time in a meeting. So, if we wanted to do that, there's two ways; we could go to two of our committees to do that and we could work with Administration and get that put up, but, at this point, I'm open to feedback on that if you think it's a good idea, or if you have concerns.

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Mr. Gleaves: I think it's a good idea. We've discussed it before. We might have to get a committee together to figure out a template or how we want to get all this information together, but I'm definitely for it, and that's it. Appreciate it.

President Anderson: We have two standing Committees that could make sense to do that based on looking at it. So, we have the Rules and Laws Committee, and the "Rules" part of Rules and Laws was designed by the Charter to take up any items that are related to the rules of how Council operates, so it could certainly fit there because we might need to make some adjustments to Section 30 of our Code. Or, maybe make other amendments, or have that discussion on to the point Mr. Jacobs brought up last time, "Are they required to apply or is it just encouraged?" So, if we want to make a change to make that a rule, then Rules and Laws should probably look at that first. I could also see it fitting in with Public Relations. We have a standing Public Relations Committee. And it certainly would fit in their Charter as a point of outreach that they could, as a Committee that already exists, create that shared form and work with Administration, or anyone else that would need to be involved, and then create that form and get it published, and then publicized. So, I think either of those two committees would make sense. We could also create another Committee, but I just don't know that we need to do that from my standpoint.

Mr. Vanover: I guess my question would be okay, so, they fill out an application. What is our review process? Just because they filled out an application doesn't mean, and I think that some inside discussion from us is necessary because we want to make sure that it's a fit for the Committee where we have the opening. You've got some big Committees; Planning, BZA, that's just not Mr. and Mrs. John Q. Public, come on in. Can it be done? Probably can, but there's a big learning curve that has to take place and that would be my concern. I would tend to agree that the Rules and Laws would be the Committee, but maybe this is premature, and that can be a discussion and a Committee process too.

President Anderson: No. Thank you. I think that's good feedback in general. I think those are questions that Committee, be it Public Relations or Rules and Laws, would want to address. I'm not proposing that this change any of our requirements as Councilmembers that would be making that nomination. So, it still would require a nomination just like the rules require today. This just creates a bigger pool for somebody to reach into. It doesn't prohibit you from doing any kind of pre-discussion. You could talk to whoever was in there. I think anyone that was going to nominate somebody from that pool, they should talk to them first and make sure they're comfortable because when we make that nomination, that's us saying that we believe that that person is fit for that role. So, that requirement still exists. This is just a way to open up the process a little bit more to make it a little easier to find out where that bench is. The other reason I think it's good to have a pool of applicants at least that are interested and letting people express their interest in doing is it also tells us that we need to do a better job of advertising. If we don't have nominees for say like the Tax Review Committee. That probably means that we need to do some work as Councilmembers to let people know what that job is. Many of our committees

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President Anderson (continued): exist because of ordinances that require them. So, if you look at our Committee report that was sent out with the packet, there's a number of those Committees that probably haven't met for ten or 15 years. And, there's others that exist and have to exist as long as the process behind it exists. Like the CRA that was set up for the Rose Street Development. That Committee has existed and will continue to exist and will have vacancies that won't be filled because some of those vacancies are not done by Council or Administration. They're done by the developers. So, this is just a way of us showing our work is why I think it's a good idea. But the point you raise makes sense that we need to answer and that Committee would need to answer what those rules are and then create that common form.

Mrs. Webster: Since I have trouble hearing you and understanding you when you speak, tell me exactly why we're doing this. Is that because of the confusion the last meeting with the Civil Service? We do have a couple of Committees that do need to have, and I don't want to use the word "qualifications", but qualifications, and Civil Service is one of them, as I stated three weeks ago. And some of the others, like BZA and Planning, I mean those are people that are on there that have had experience doing Building, like Dave Okum, or something like that. He's been on there forever and a day, Galster, forever and a day. But somebody else, you know, they don't have experience, so you want everybody to fill out an application to go on a Committee. The Mayor has certain appointments; Board of Health, and Rec Commission, and Planning, and BZA. So, what about his appointments? He should have the right to appoint who he wants and not have to pick from a Committee. Is that what you're trying to do? Because I'm not clear with it, because I can't understand you.

President Anderson: Well, if it's easier to read, it's also in the minutes from the last meeting. None of what we're talking about would restrict the Mayor, or any of his appointments. I know when we spoke afterwards, it's something they might want to do also; just to create an open portal where anyone in the public could express interest. This isn't a forced application. This isn't necessarily qualifications. It's just opening up the pool of applicants so we can understand who wants to do the work. If you look at our current BZA that you brought up, for example, there are people that come in and out of those appointments and it's intentionally not just experts in the field. It's residents that are listening to those. They receive some training, but the majority of them that come in and out don't have that experience until they've started on the Committee. So, this is a way for us to get those qualifications. If you think about the last meeting we had, say for example that Civil Service meeting you mentioned, or for that appointment, there was a person that was nominated and you had asked in the meeting, "Well, what are his qualifications?". This is a way to answer that ahead of time so that you don't have to decide on the fly, "Hey, I've never heard of this person. How do I know if he's qualified?" So, this is just simply a way to open up to the public for them to express interest in any of our positions. It also lets Council explain what those Committees are and what they do. So, on that webpage, how often they meet, when they last met, and what the general qualifications should be/will be on that application form, and then people can express. It doesn't restrict, or it doesn't have to restrict who gets appointed by anybody.

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Mrs. Webster: So, you don't think that would cause hard feelings if somebody applied for every Committee there was, and they didn't get any? Don't you think they'd get a little mad? I mean, now you have people that usually know somebody like the Mayor, for example. They know somebody and they might say when they're campaigning, "Hey, if you ever have a position open, I'd like to have it and stuff." Or they ask him for commission appointments or Planning. I know that happens. I don't know. Do you think it's necessary to go to all that rigmarole?

President Anderson: Well, this is just another opportunity for people to express interest. If you remember from our last meeting, the Chair from the Civil Service Commission also said that this was a good idea. It's in line with the way that they do things as well. I don't know that it's rigmarole. It's just a way to gauge interest. So, it's up to you. If you think it's worthwhile, I think it is important for us to have a pool of applicants. The discussions that you talked about that happened say on the campaign trail, that doesn't prohibit it. All of that can still happen. This is just a way for people to know what Committees are available, what they do, and if it's something they think they want to help or serve the City, it's a way for people to do that. Not everyone in our Community is comfortable calling the Mayor and saying, "Hey, I'm really interested in this." It's a way for us to reconnect back. If you don't think it's worthwhile, it's certainly your prerogative.

Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup: I'm understanding the process like this; is that it's the same exact thing we've always done, so, if somebody wanted to be appointed to something, they can go to you Lavonne, and they could say, "Hey, I would like to be considered if this comes up." They don't have to put it through the application if they don't want to. You can still do it and then bring up the bio like we've done before. Or, they have the opportunity; say they don't know anybody up here, or they don't feel comfortable, that this would be like they could put their bio information and all that kind of stuff on the application, and then we can see it. And, if it is somebody that we want to consider, we can, and if not, we don't have to. It's not saying we have to pick from those applications, it's just saying like if we get in another bind like we did last time, for me personally, I didn't know anybody who was available during the day that was willing to serve, and I was very clear on that, that I asked and there was just nobody available that could do that. And I think that if we did have something like this application and then they understood this is at 2:00 in the afternoon, and then they were available, that that would make that a little bit better and easier for everybody to communicate that way and get more people into these Committees. So, the way that would be the same process plus a little bit more if I'm hearing that correctly.

Mrs. Webster: Okay. I just don't want to create any more problems up here.

Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup: I understand that.

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Mr. Gleaves: A neighbor of mine used to work for Woodlawn Police Department. He was interested in Civil Service, but right now he's in Behavioral Health. He works second shift. But, as I've been explaining to people that we have improved communication, and I personally want more people to get involved with the City and things happen when you are appointed to certain boards and you might not be able to serve anymore. So, one thing is the fact that with not having a pool, you have to figure out at times who do I get? Who do I reach out to, to come in? If you develop a pool, you already have a list of people to look at, you've already vetted them, you know their interest. It makes it easier to fill that void. And I think this is basically what this is all about, and I'd like to see it happen.

Mr. Jacobs: I think, as long as we're clear with the public and up here, this isn't creating a line. People aren't getting in line seeking these positions. They're saying, "Just so you know, I'd be interested, and here's what I would bring to the show". I don't envision those people expecting a reaction from us. So, I don't think they'd feel entitled or get upset if they weren't then chosen. It's not getting in a line. It's just giving us options is how I view it, and of course we haven't crafted yet. To me that's the vision that I'm hearing about.

President Anderson: So, what do people think about Rules and Laws versus Public Relations. The reason I mention Public Relations is because of the communications side of it is Rules and Laws tend to be an overworked group, and they've just done a lot, and it might be an opportunity for other Councilmembers to be part of that. Now, I believe right now it is Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup, and Ms. McFarland, so, and then Rules and Laws it would be Mr. Jacobs and Mr. Vanover. Now, that doesn't change everybody else's ability to give feedback just like any other Committee, it's just they would start the work, create that application, work through the process, work with Administration. Ideally, Administration could use the same process, but it's really up to Mayor Hawkins how he wants to handle that. So, is there a preference there? Because really the next thing to do is to make a motion to send the item to the Committee for evaluation. Nothing we're doing tonight requires us to do it. This is just sending it to the Committee to do the work to see if it makes sense.

Mr. Jacobs: It's a fair point that this could lead to other changes that would need to be made to be consistent. But whichever Committee is doing it, they would have the assistance of Mr. Braun. So, I don't think we have to go to Rules and Laws for that reason. The flavor to me sounds a little bit like Public Relations, but that's just my two cents. Thank you.

President Anderson: Any other feedback?

Mr. Vanover: I'll just reiterate my point. I think Rules and Laws is the Committee for this. I don't look at this as a Public Relations thing. I look at this as if we're going to develop it and go with this, this would be a tool for Council to have in their toolbox. So, to me, it would make more sense regardless of me being there or not. That it would be a Rules and Laws Committee rather than a PR Committee.

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Mr. Jacobs: I think it is important to clarify. This division we have, they would have to go through this portal, or it would be a choice? Because I think we've kind of gone both directions just over the discussion. Not tonight, but initially I viewed it as a "must", as opposed to a "should".

President Anderson: I think it depends on what the ordinance actually says. We could do it either way. We have the ability to require it. We would just have to change our Council rules to require it. That's not what I had envisioned when I brought up the topic. I'd envisioned it as a tool, and I think people that go through that and provide that information, publicly, I think they're more likely to get the positions anyway because we'll all have seen them and understand the requirements rather than a last-minute at the dais here's a person. But that's really up to the Committee to hash through and think about. And, pros and cons, we can always change that or make those changes later. We don't have to decide that tonight. What I'm looking for tonight is really, at this point, a motion to send the item to one of the Committees and then have them look at it and see if we can set this up because there is a lot of demand out there for people that have this feeling that they want to help, but they don't know how to start, so this would answer that.

Mrs. Webster: Are you going to make another Committee?

President Anderson: So, I've not decided to make a Committee. What I'm asking is I think it should go to Rules and Laws or Public Relations. I've heard feedback from Mr. Vanover about it making sense at Rules and Laws, which I agree with those ideas, and Mr. Jacobs also said it could make sense in the Public Relations Committee that also already exists. I don't have a strong opinion. It's whatever Council wants it to do.

Mrs. Webster: Through Rules and Laws? No. It should go there, right?

President Anderson: To Rules and Laws?

Mrs. Webster: I think we've just had Committees coming out the ying yang since we've been up here.

President Anderson: I agree.

Mrs. Webster: Every time there's a confrontation, or an issue, we've got to have a Committee. I think it's overkill. I think Rules and Laws would be good for that. Not another Committee.

President Anderson: I don't think anyone on this dais has asked for another Committee for this. There have been two proposals; Public Relations which already exists, and Rules and Laws which already exists.

Mrs. Webster: Okay.

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President Anderson: But, again, it's up to Council.

Mr. Jacobs: At the risk of overcomplicating it, I do think it's important if we make this process, or, you know, a resident expressing an interest, if we make that a rule, then it has to go to Rules and Laws. If it's an optional thing, it doesn't make as much sense to go to Rules and Laws. I hate to split hairs over it. But, if it's a rule, yes, it has to go to Rules and Laws.

Mr. Vanover: Well, and I think that's a point of discussion in Committee. I think that to say, "Well, we're going to send it to Rules and Laws, and it's going to be a rule", you've done handicapped the Committee to work, and essentially then why send it to Committee, just rule from the floor of Council.

President Anderson: For what it's worth, I agree. What would be sent to Committee that I'm proposing is the application process for Council committee appointments with the intent of creating an open application process. If Rules and Laws has a discussion and says, "Hey, you know what, this doesn't belong here." Or "We don't know." Then, we can come back and have that and fix it or create another Committee, or send it to Public Relations, or after Rules and Laws finishes their work, the Public Relations Committee could convene and publicize it. It doesn't have to be all at the same time. We don't have to do everything to do anything. So, I agree. So, I'm hearing a lot of feedback more towards Rules and Laws because that covers us in case, we wanted to make it required. If it's optional, they can involve the Public Relations Committee later, right?

Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup: That's what I was going to ask was can they kind of work it back-to-back like it would start at Rules and Laws and end up with Public Relations to kind of...the Rules and Laws makes the determination, and then Public Relations kind of sculpts what it looks like. Something like that was what I was thinking.

President Anderson: That's right. So, our standing Committees, the point of standing Committees are when something comes up from Council, we don't have to create a Committee every time; there's already people that are set up. So, after Rules and Laws evaluates it, we can blanch it and then there might be a recommendation as part of that to publicize it, and show all the great work that we did, and say, "Hey, this is how you get involved.", and then Public Relations group might figure out a better way to get people involved. That gets to the point of why I think it's important is once it's launched, if we find that there aren't people that are interested or engaged, that's probably Public Relations work to figure out why, right? We probably need to talk about the Committees, the work. Figure out how to get people the experience they need so they can be part of those bigger Committees; the more active ones like BZA, or Planning, right? It might be, "Hey, I'm interested in Planning." We might see there's 12 people that are interested in joining that group, but it's a very active group with a lot of experience. It might be an opportunity for Public Relations, or Administration, to reach out to those people, and have a mini-workshop, or help them understand what the job does. Help them hone

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President Anderson (continued): those skills because those people that have been doing it for 20 and 30 years aren't going to be here in 20 to 30 years, right? So, we need to have that bench of skill ready to go. And that's what I'm asking for.

Ms. McFarland: I agree. I think Rules and Laws is the place to start, and then allow Public Relations to carry that out to the public. So, I will make a motion to refer that to Rules and Laws to evaluate.

Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup: Second.

President Anderson: Questions or discussion about the active motion to send the application process of Council-appointed Committees vacancies to Rules and Laws?

Motion to have the application process of Council-appointed Committee vacancies sent to Rules and Laws for evaluation and recommendation back to Council passes with seven affirmative votes.

President Anderson: Obviously, we've been working for some time "as is", so this isn't a rush item, but I think it would be good if we got this moving over the summer while we've got some extra time so that maybe we can start the next Council session with the new process. I think that would be the goal that I have, but it's certainly up to the Committee for how quickly they can do the work. Because the next tranche of applications and changes will be after December. So, in January of next year. So, if we're going to do something in advance of that, they'd have to move pretty quickly. Is there any other Old Business?

Mr. Vanover: I've got two items. One, we heard some discussion up here prior to the meeting of summer schedule.

President Anderson: I've got that under New Business, but we can talk about it now if you'd like.

Mr. Vanover: The other point is, it was disheartening, and on multiple occasions, there were signs specifically for the school levy in the right-of-way. And it was all over. We walked in Sharonville the other day and it was the same way. There was one that, well there were some earlier that were, the stop sign near Castro, those were removed, well then yesterday, the day before, one showed up at the corner of Tivoli and Crescentville Road. There's one still down by the church right now. And, as we're starting into the summer with contractors, typically they're the big violators, but just be aware that the public right-of-way is not free signage location. But it was disheartening with the school doing that. I understand they need to advertise but follow the rules.

President Anderson: Are you saying that you believe the school was placing those signs or was it individuals?

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Mr. Vanover: I don't know who placed them. But all of them were, and I've gotten feedback from other areas of our Community that this was a common practice.

President Anderson: So, are you asking us to take some action tonight?

Mr. Vanover: No, I think it's the point. The Building Department is the one that's going to take action, and whether it's, well the school issue is over with now, but, as we're moving into contractor season, if we see this, it's not fair for those that play by the rules to be allowed to do this. It's been a standing rule forever, and I just think to point out the public right-of-way is just that. The public right-of-way is not private property for signage of any sign, of any degree.

President Anderson: If we need to take a look at our local Ordinances to support that, or repeal that, we certainly can, but I'm not hearing that as an ask. It's just an announcement? Okay. I just wanted to make sure I'm being respectful of your ask. And that's all we have for that.

Mr. Jacobs: Just to speak to that. In just the last week, in less than a quarter mile on the Pike, there were ten signs for a healthcare scam. I called the number. It was an out-of-state broker. He blamed it on the marketing company, but there were literally ten signs. It's unacceptable no matter where it comes from, but I see it with mattress sales, I see it with just people trying to use our City for a commercial, and I've reached out to Administration when I see them. I've been told by Administration that those signs can be pulled down. We don't have to go through any process. They've left their property out. It's littering, and I agree it's unacceptable no matter where it comes from. And I will tell you those ten signs are no longer there.

Ms. McFarland: That was going to be my question. Can we just take those down when we see them at a place? And, then as far as like, the school levy. Do they have a certain amount of time to take those down after? They need to be gone already? Okay.

President Anderson: Mr. Braun, did you want to speak to that? We don't need to get into the legalities of it tonight. This was an announcement that Mr. Vanover was sharing and we don't have any action in Old Business related to this, so, we can take this off-line, or if there's something that you think would be helpful here, Mr. Braun, this is certainly an opportunity.

Mr. Braun: Just to answer Councilmember McFarland's question. You have to have permission to place signs on property. If it's placed in the right-of-way, I think Mr. Jacobs is correct; it's litter, but, I would always say that if it was placed there by the property owner, you cannot remove it. That would be theft. So, that's just to clarify.

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President Anderson: So, I guess be careful if you're going to be a vigilante litter picker upper certainly, and if anyone, such as a resident, that has a question about a sign, say on the expressway, we're encouraging them to call Administration rather than take action. I'd hate for somebody to walk on to somebody's property and then hear about one of those stories where that property owner then comes out and it causes a problem. So, deferring for safety is my recommendation. And I would encourage them to call Administration during business hours to find out if there's something there in the Building Department, or the Police could come out and take a look if it makes sense. Is that okay with you, Mayor Hawkins and Mr. Uhl since I'm putting you on the spot? Yes. Thank you. The record doesn't see the nodding, but, for the record, they were nodding "yes".

Mayor Hawkins: I was going to say I personally have bothered Mr. Uhl, and formerly Mr. Jones on the weekend when I was seeing things. Somebody had put some signs in one of our parks, and so I just wanted to make sure there wasn't something that someone had approved before I yanked them and then I promptly did yank them. As Mr. Braun said, don't run afoul of the law. Or call me if you do. (laughter) Thanks.

President Anderson: We can be good Community members in that space. We're still in Old Business. Is there any other Old Business that anyone on Council or Administration would like to bring forward?

Mr. Vanover: Well, we were going to discuss summer schedule.

President Anderson: I've got summer schedule on the New Business side since we hadn't discussed it yet.

New Business

President Anderson: There was the one item Mr. Vanover brought up that Administration and I were talking before the meeting about the summer schedule. You may not believe it, but we're almost in summer, so the rain has stopped, at least for today, and we're ready to talk about that. Typically, Council has gone into summer session which would be the July and August meetings. Typically, when we do that it's because there's less business that requires our attention during that time. It does not mean that Committees can't meet, and we can still do work. It just means that if we agree to go on summer schedule, we would just have one meeting in July, and one meeting in August, and we would cancel those standing meetings. Typically, if we do go to summer schedule, we usually keep the second meeting which is where we have the full schedule with the Committee reports. However, Administration has advised that in July, they're intending to do some work in this building that will affect the drywall, and it's currently scheduled for that second week in July, that second meeting week in July. So, the question on the floor is first, do we want to do summer schedule for this year again, and if we do, is it okay to keep the first meeting in July, which would be July 2nd, and then in August, we would just have the August 20th meeting.

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Mr. Vanover: I can do either. My question would be, and to me, the overruling decision would be is the Administration capable. Is there something pressing that will not work with that process. That's my only comment there was the concern if the Administration had issues with that, then, we would stick with our normal schedule.

President Anderson: Certainly. And just because we cancel the meeting tonight, doesn't mean we can't pick it up if something were to come up. Say there was some hot action that we needed on the mall or some development. We could certainly do that if we needed to. Mr. Uhl, did you want to speak to that?

Mr. Uhl: Just a quick update on a couple of things that are going on. So, the intention this year is to renovate the Council Chambers to replace carpet, do some painting, but also, as a part of that, LED energy efficiency lighting. They'll have to come in here and take out some of these can lights, replace some of them. As you can tell, when you look in the ceiling, there's a lot of can lights in our ceiling. Not all of those will go back because of the LED and efficiencies. There will be some drywall repair that will need to take place. They will also be doing ceiling tiles, and as mentioned, painting, and to get up higher, they'll have to bring scaffolding in. We met with a contractor. One of the contractors last week, I asked him about a timeframe to go the second meeting in July to the second meeting in August, and he thought that was say too tight of a time schedule to get all the work done. So, the request is to consider July 2nd to allow a couple of extra weeks for some of this work to get completed.

President Anderson: Any other questions or discussion on that? I'd move that we do approve a summer schedule tonight. That would mean that our July 16th meeting would be cancelled. We would move Committee appointments, and that full schedule to the July 2nd meeting instead. And then, we would cancel our August 6th meeting, and just have our August 20th meeting that month, which would give the contractors the full block of time. The one thing that we would need to make sure we do is follow up with Mr. Coleman's Civil Service that he would be able to attend or have a designee since he's not on Council and regular reports on that July meeting. So, I move that we cancel those two meetings.

Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup: Second.

President Anderson: Questions or discussions about cancelling and moving to summer schedule? Just by affirmation, all those who agree to cancel the meetings, signify by saying "Aye".

Council motion to move to summer schedule with full meeting July 2nd and full meeting August 20th, with July 16th, and August 6th meetings cancelled passes with seven affirmative votes.

President Anderson: If we can get that updated on the calendar, and then make sure there's a big note, and then would you like me to follow up with Mr. Coleman, or did Administration want to do that?

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Mr. Uhl: We'll take care of notifying him. Thank you.

President Anderson: If not, I see him cutting grass around kitty corner from me most weeks.

Mr. Uhl: thank you.

Meetings and Announcements

Mr. Vanover: I would like to get the Rental Committee together either the 13th or 14th next week, about 2:00. So, let me know which day works best.

President Anderson: I'll get with you after the meeting. It should be fine.

Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup: Planning Commission will meet in these chambers next Tuesday, May 13th at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. McFarland: The Board of Health will meet in these chambers tomorrow evening at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Gleaves: The BZA Board is scheduled to meet in these chambers at 7:00 p.m., May 27th. At 6:00 p.m. we are scheduled to have a training session, Mr. Braun. Am I correct? Do you know anything about that?

Mr. Braun: I'll confirm that with Ms. Hays.

Mr. Gleaves: Okay.

Mr. Braun: But we've proposed it.

Mr. Gleaves: Okay. Yes, we talked about that at our last meeting, so, hopefully we can get that done at 6:00 p.m. Thank you. That's all I have.

Mayor Hawkins: Just piggybacking on Ms. McFarland for the Board of Health. I think it's important for Council to know, as well as the general public with regard to the Board of Health meeting tomorrow. It will be Dr. Webb's last meeting. He's been engaged with the Board of Health since 1986. And, so, this will be his last meeting. He's retiring from practice. A gentleman who is working in his practice is going to come on as our City Medical Adviser. But, important to note his great service to the City.

President Anderson: Thank you.

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Ms. Morgan: A general announcement for Council. Several weeks ago, you would have received an email from the Ohio Auditors of State announcing that they will be completing the 2024 audit for the City. As part of that audit, they have requested that all of our Elected Officials complete a short seven question fraud risk assessment questionnaire. I have hard copies of those for you this evening that I will distribute after the meeting, and we will also send that out via email for you to complete and return as well with further instruction.

President Anderson: Are we submitting these back to Administration or does this go straight to the auditors?

Ms. Morgan: Back to Administration please. Thank you.

Mayor Hawkins: One last thing. I want to do my best Kathy McNear impression and remind everybody to take care of your Ohio Ethics that is coming up I think the 15th of May, so, if you haven't already, I'm not going to make you raise your hand if you've done it or not but just make sure you take care of that.

President Anderson: Thank you for the reminder.

Mr. Vanover: While we're doing meetings and announcements, with the work going on here, what's going to be the effect on BZA and Planning. Because Planning typically meets that second week.

Mr. Uhl: We're going to have discussions with Ms. Hays to decide how we can kind of schedule around depending on what the applicants look like. I mean, if we need to move forward, we may evaluate moving them down to the Mayor's Courtroom down in the Police Department. It's an option as well.

Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup: Not sure that could happen because our Planning Commission is during Neighborhood Watch, unless they move Neighborhood Watch someplace else.

Mr. Uhl: We will look for another suitable location if we need to move it, but I think we're going to look to potentially postpone if we can. If not, we'll find another suitable location.

President Anderson: Mr. Uhl, would it help for you if I created a subcommittee to look at scheduling for you, or do you think you've got this?

Mr. Uhl: That would be fantastic.

President Anderson: I'll take that under consideration.

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Ms. McFarland: This is just a reminder for all Elected Officials and Administrators that the 14th of May next week is the Student Council Lunch at Springdale Elementary. You should have all received an invite, and they're asking that you RSVP to Officer Riordan. So, Tortilleria Garcia will be served for lunch by the students who get to sit and have lunch with us. So, they're very excited and are looking forward to seeing us.

President Anderson: And, if you haven't been to one before, you should try to sit as close as possible to Mayor Hawkins. He's something of a celebrity every time he's down there, he gets mobbed. It's actually very cute how they reach out.

Communications from the Audience

Ms. Rathgens: My name is Pam Rathgens, and I live at Baldwin Grove. That's 11111 Springfield Pike, Apartment 169. My address to the Council people is that there is a resident in the building and the building code, I was told, was there was no smoking allowed. When I first came to Baldwin Grove, it was allowed in your unit only. But there is a resident that's been there before me, and I have been there since 2008 of March. This individual is not even a senior. He is the son of his mother. He lived with her. But the mother was very sick, and she is now with her daughter. The whole family smoked. But, anyway, I'm having trouble with this individual. If I go out to clean my car out, or do anything, he is smoking around my unit. My unit is at the end of the complex where walking traffic goes by. And I'm on the ground floor, so this individual feels like he can smoke anywhere. I asked our new manager, "Where is the smoking allowed?" She said, "It's in the courtyard; the gazebo." And I said to myself, I didn't say it to her that we had a meeting sometime back and the residents did not want smoking at the gazebo. It holds the smoke. So, that was not allowed, but now the new manager said that that's where it's at. Well, previous meetings they said that they could smoke by the dumpsters; there's two dumpsters. And, so, it seems like this individual, who is not a senior, and I believe there is something mentally wrong here with him that he can, you know, when there's no management around, you know, he can smoke and do as he pleases, which is not allowed. I brought memos that are sent to us about smoking that if they're caught, they would no longer be living there. Well, this young one is still living there, and he's been there longer than me. What's wrong with these bulletins that they say that smoking and certain things that if you're caught, you cannot live there anymore, well, that's just hearsay and whatever you know. There's no action. And, then my son said, "No mom" because I wanted to go to the Police Department. So, I would like to know from you, members of Springdale, and I've always liked this Community. I used to be a Sears employee, and I've always liked Springdale, and I had a home in Springfield Township, the border of Colerain, but I still like Springdale, and it just seems like, my son said, "Mom, don't go to the Police Department". I'm having phone calls. The phone rings once, and that person knows that once the phone rings once, that number is not going to show on your phone display. "Oh mom, you're going to have to get a cell phone that's working so that you can cut out the landline". I found out that the landline was open to the public.

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President Anderson: Ma'am, your time is expired. I'm sure that's very frustrating on public property, or private property. I'm not sure what we can do here tonight. Mr. Uhl, did you have some thoughts?

Mr. Uhl: I do. I know we spoke I think at least twice prior, and I think a couple of other people have spoken with you. If you would, just make sure your phone number is there, and we'll follow up with you with a couple of options and try to help you out as best we can.

Ms. Rathgens: Okay. Thank you.

Mrs. Webster: Ma'am, how long has that new management company been there? Hello? How long has that new management company been there?

Ms. Rathgens: They change like night and day. They change so often. I think she's only been there for maybe three months at the most.

Mrs. Webster: I think your problem is you really need to contact the management company. If there are rules in that Baldwin Grove no smoking, then they should abide by those.

Ms. Rathgens: Right.

Mrs. Webster: So, I think that's where you need to go. Have you talked to anybody there? At the management company?

Ms. Rathgens: I have called her and left a message on her voicemail, and that's been a good week or two ago.

Mrs. Webster: Is there somebody there on the main floor that would be able to help you with the management company getting to talk to someone?

Ms. Rathgens: Well, now I would go down to CMHA to deposit my rent, and back in February, I gave them two months' rent because they keep saying that I owe, and I'm wondering because I pay my bills, but anyway, I wanted to bring my daughter who is also my power of attorney.

Mrs. Webster: I'm not sure if the Police Department has any legitimate business to enforce that law when it is a complex like that. So that's what I would do.

Ms. Rathgens: My son says, "Mom, don't go to the Police". "Don't go to them."

Mrs. Webster: Do whatever you can to get a phone number and somebody to talk to you.

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Ms. Rathgens: Well, yes, because I'm going through the papers and the bulletins that they give to each of the residents, and I noticed that they changed the phone number to the office.

Mrs. Webster: I think that's where you should go for help in relief of this matter. I cannot imagine how disgusting it is for you.

Ms. Rathgens: Well, we have to make appointments. But, if they don't answer the phone, I don't know how to make an appointment.

Mrs. Webster: Yes. The whole world is like that.

President Anderson: Well, it sounds like you've got some action here. Administration is going to reach out. We have some ideas that might help you. So, just make sure you leave your phone number, and they should be able to at least get you something to move you along.

Ms. Rathgens: Thank you very much.

President Anderson: Thank you for coming in. And, for what it's worth, I also like Springdale like you. I think we're all fans here.

Recap of Legislative Items

Mr. Jacobs: Council, as you review your Legislative Summary, Item I was addressed by Ordinance No. 10-2025, receiving a second reading; An Ordinance Amending Section 153.252(F)(6)(a)(i) of the Springdale Code of Ordinances Regulating the Permitted Number of Domesticated Pets. That ordinance passed with five affirmative votes. Item II was addressed by Ordinance No. 18-2025; An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to Enter Into an LPA Federal Local-Let Project Agreement with the State of Ohio Department of Transportation Related to the Installation of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure. That received a second reading and passed with seven affirmative votes. Item III was addressed by Ordinance No. 19-2025, receiving a first reading; An Ordinance Approving a Zoning Map Amendment to Rezone the Property Located at 1171 East Kemper Road from Office Business (OB) to Public Facility (PF) and that will be on the agenda at our next meeting for a second reading, and a public hearing. Item IV was addressed by Ordinance No. 20-2025, receiving a first reading; An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to Enter Into a Written Amendment to the Agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation for the Operation, Control, and Maintenance of Traffic Signal Equipment in the City of Springdale. It will be returning at our next meeting. Item V was addressed by Ordinance No. 21-2025, receiving a first reading; An Ordinance Enacting and Adopting the 2025 S-28 Code Supplement to the Springdale Code of Ordinances. It shall return. Item VI was addressed by Resolution No. R11-2025; A Resolution Authorizing the City of Springdale's Participation in the Ohio Association

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Mr. Jacobs (continued): of Public Treasurers 2026 Workers' Compensation Group Retrospective Rating Program. That passed with seven affirmative votes.

Legislation in Development

Mr. Jacobs: To receive a first reading at our next meeting on the 21st, Item VII; A Resolution Approving the Final Hamilton County 911 Plan Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Chapter 128. And then, additionally, Council made two other decisions following the discussion of an open application process for applicants for various committees. Council approved sending such proposal to the Rules and Laws Committee. And finally, a decision to cancel our July 16th and August 6th meetings were approved, putting Council on a summer schedule. Unless there's anything forthcoming from Administration.

Mr. Uhl: I do have two things that will be forthcoming at our next meeting that have kind of started to circulate the last couple of days. The first one being, I don't want to jinx us, but I believe we are going to take delivery of our ambulance that was ordered almost three years ago. I think in the next couple days, but I'm being optimistic. Hopefully, within the next two weeks before our next meeting, it will be here. With that, we will have to get some legislation for a lease agreement with Fifth Third, so they are working through that process right now to get all of that buttoned up for us. Secondly, we will have some legislation with an emergency clause for our electricity aggregation. Our current contract is up in August, and the reason for the emergency clause is so that when the broker determines it's the right time to lock in, we can lock that rate in, because those rates are not guaranteed for days, or 30 days; they're guaranteed for two hours. So, we will also have Dan Deters from Energy Alliances come in as well to just kind of give us a quick overview and rundown on how our electric aggregation program has been working, the amount of money that it's been saving our residents, and also kind of give a little bit of an outlook on the energy forecast. That's it.

President Anderson: And you mentioned this was just for electricity. I know our gas aggregation is coming up later this year as well. Is that also in development?

Mr. Uhl: This is just for electricity, so, gas would be later.

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Adjournment

President Anderson: All we have left is Item 15.

Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup: Move to adjourn.

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

Council adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Browder
Clerk of Council

Minutes Approved:

Jeffrey Anderson, President of Council

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