

City of Springdale Council

April 2, 2025

President of Council Anderson called Council to order on April 2, 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.

The minutes of the March 19, 2025, meeting were considered. Mr. Vanover made a motion to accept the minutes; Mr. Gleaves seconded. The minutes were approved with five affirmative votes and two abstentions (McFarland, Sullivan-Wisecup).

Proclamation – Public Health Week

Mayor Hawkins: It's always a wonderful thing to be able to celebrate our Health Department and our Health Commissioner, Matt Clayton, who is present.

Mayor Hawkins then read the proclamation and presented it to Matt Clayton.

Mr. Clayton: Mayor Hawkins, thank you for the kind words. Those were a lot of "whereas" (laughter). Part of the theme for National Public Health Week 2025 is "Your Health is our Mission". And, at the City of Springdale Health Department, this is a concept that we live in, and we believe it. We seek to promote health for every member of the Community. We realize that this is privilege. And, we only have this privilege because we have support from the Community, the Elected Officials, from our Mayor, and from City Administration. And, also from partnering agencies; Springdale Fire, Springdale Police, the staff of the Springdale Community Center, and countless more. Recently, we implemented the eClinicalWorks database system, and that resulted in a tremendous increase in efficiency for our clinical partners. Small investment in efficiency will result in a great increase in our ability to serve the Community. Not only at our vaccination clinics where we're literally able to serve more than twice as many people as we were serving before, but also when we're visiting homebound residents. This could not have happened if we didn't have the support of our leadership. And I'm also proud that the City of Springdale Health Department has developed a positive relationship with local colleges and universities, and, really over the last few years, we've emerged as a respected source of workforce development for the local public health region. This is great work, but again, it doesn't happen in a vacuum. We're only able to do this because we have your support and your partnership. So, I'd like to thank our Mayor, our City Council, and our City Administration for your partnership and your support as we continue to promote health in the City of Springdale. Thank you so much. (applause)

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Presentation – Duke Energy Community Relations Liaison, Chris Harding

President Anderson: We have a presentation from the Duke Energy Community Relations Liaison, Chris Harding if you want to come forward. I believe the man of honor is also our Mayor.

Mr. Harding: Mayor, and members of Council, and members of the Administration, I first off want to introduce myself to those of you I haven't met yet, my name is Christopher Harding. I'm on the Community Relations Team at Duke Energy. I am your representative to the company, and I'm delighted to be here on behalf of the Foundation to present a check for \$7,500 to support the Mill Creek Connector study. I will say, just as a quick anecdote, I previously came from Hamilton County. I worked for Commissioner Denise Driehaus, and I know this was a huge priority for her to help finance the trail, and the studies that have occurred since, so, for me this feels full circle. And I'm very excited to support what I hope would be not only lifestyle improvements for City residents, but also providing access to the multitude of trails that we have in our region. I think it's great also, in terms of providing multi-modal modes of transportation for folks; whether that's getting to jobs or the grocery store or what have you. So, again, I'm delighted to be here. Thank you for the opportunity, and it's wonderful to meet you all. Thank you.

Mayor Hawkins: Before you do the check presentation, I want you to know we have meetings on the first and third Wednesday of the month. Anytime you want to bring a check to us, we would love for you to come.

Mr. Harding: I will keep that in mind sir.

Mr. Harding presented the check to Mayor Hawkins. (applause)

President Anderson: Again, thank you Mr. Harding for coming out and seeing us. I do remember you from past years with Ms. Driehaus. I was trying to place the face and the name, but thank you for bringing full circle, and, anytime you want to bring checks, we can find the time on the agenda for you.

Mr. Harding: I do want to acknowledge Matt Martin, my colleague on our Corporate Communications team, who is here in support as well. Thank you so much for your time.

President Anderson: Thank you.

Communications

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None

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Communications from the Audience

Mr. Williams: Good evening. My name is Todd Williams. I own a business at 11325 Springfield Pike; it's a dental practice in the Springwood Professional condominiums. I've been a business owner in Springdale for 26 years. I'm here because of the zoning infractions at 11285 Springfield Pike. It's the old Maple Knoll professional building. It's empty and vacant now. Maple Knoll is having a company, based in Monfort Heights, 20 miles away, to use that facility as a mulch distribution facility. So, what it entails is everyday for the past six weeks, we have to endure the smell of a large pile of mulch. On Monday it ranged probably 20 feet wide, ten feet tall and 40 feet long. We have to hear heavy equipment come in, so, it rattles our building. We have the constant beeping of the equipment in reverse, but, worst of all, is when these double long dump trucks come in, and have to get that last bit of mulch out, they have to thump the bed. My office is 50 feet from this, and, so, I'm a dentist. I know you guys love going to the dentist, but, people, you know, when you're working on them, and the building is shaking as you're working on them, that's unsustainable. We've had many patients complain, many patients "Can we just reschedule?" So, then there's a tangible financial loss to my practice for doing this. Now, there's also eight other dental and medical facilities in that complex that have to endure this. The company that's doing this is, again, based in Monfort Heights, so why am I here? Well, a year ago, it was starting to get bad. And, so, Ron Volmer, our condo association manager, he contacted Rich and Dan at the Building Department, but never heard back from them, so, he went to the company, Upscale Landscaping, and talked to a guy there. And, they said, "Oh, don't worry about it, we're about done, this is our last year here. Maple Knoll is tearing down that building. You won't have to deal with us again." Well towards the end of the year, the salt came. They have a concrete revetment; a storage area for the mulch and salt. Well, that's curious, but maybe it's just until the end of the year. Well, for the past six weeks we've had to endure this smell and sound. And it's getting a little old. So, it got particularly bad on March 19th, a Wednesday, at lunch, I couldn't take anymore, so I came up to the Building Department and the lady took my name, number, all my details. She said, "Oh, there's an inspector out in the field; he'll take a look at it and give you a call. I never heard anything back. So, next day I went online and did the portal to complain about a property. Never heard anything back from that. They had all my contact information. So, on March 21st, I contacted the Chairman of the Board of Zoning Appeals and told Tom Hall about this and so he went and checked it out and he called me back and he said he concurred with my opinion of this thing, and to call Melissa Hays and she's the Chief Building Official and she'll help you out. I never heard back from her either. So, I'm here tonight to see if I can get City Council to look into this, and to compel the Building Department to enforce the Zoning Code. That building is zoned for office. There is no way you can say that running a landscaping business; a mulch distribution center from there is office. They are not doing just Maple Knoll. They did do Maple Knoll, but they're doing facilities three miles away. This Monfort Heights company is doing business all over northern Hamilton County, and it's getting to be a drain on my business, and therefore I'd appreciate anything you can do to look into this. It's a violation of the Zoning Code because it's not office use, and it's a nuisance. Thank you for letting me speak.

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Mr. Uhl: Just to address a couple of your issues. I do know the Building Department has been looking into this. I did have some conversations with our Chief Building Official regarding this property as well. Businesses are permitted to have mulch piles on their property for 30 days. I know it may be a little bit longer than that based on what you're saying, but, if you'd just make sure that you have your contact information there, I will make sure that Ms. Hays gets back with you tomorrow and can give you an update and a status. I do know they had some conversations with the contractors on site, and they did agree to turn off their backing alarm on their equipment so as not to interfere with some of your business. So, I think they are making a little bit of an effort to be a good neighbor, but we'll definitely look into it a little bit more to see how long they intend to be there to ensure that our regulations, as far as mulch piles, etc. are cleaned up or moved within the appropriate amount of time.

Mr. Harding: It's been six weeks, and this has been going on a couple of years now. I think if we had a mulch pile in ours for several months, I'd think there would be a problem. The beeping, yes, that's bad enough, but the sound of the trucks all day long going in and out and they're not just doing Springdale, they're doing other communities, and they're using Springdale to do this.

Mr. Uhl: I appreciate you sharing that information. Like I said, we'll make sure that Ms. Hays gets back in touch with you tomorrow to kind of give you an update and a status on where and what the inspectors have found on their trips out there. Thank you.

Mr. Harding: Thank you for letting me speak. Thank you.

Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance No. 15-2025

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A PROPOSAL UNDER THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH STRAWSER CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR THE 2025 ANNUAL STREET PROGRAM – CRACK SEAL AND CAPE SEAL PROJECT

Ms. Sullivan Wisecup made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 15-2025; Mr. Vanover seconded.

Ordinance No. 15-2025 passes with seven affirmative votes.

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Ordinance No. 16-2025

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO A MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE, THE CITY OF FOREST PARK, AND THE CITY OF FAIRFIELD

Mr. Vanover made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 16-2025; Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded.

Mayor Hawkins: I just wanted to say thank you to obviously our staff which does an outstanding job, but also for the City of Fairfield and Forest Park, who have gone through a process with regard to this and came to an agreement before us. We were still doing some due diligence, and there were some things that we were asking to have adjusted, and they were willing to undo what they had already done to meet our needs, so, I just wanted to say I appreciate the City of Forest Park and Fairfield for that.

Ordinance No. 16-2025 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Ordinance No. 17-2025

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING CERTAIN CITY PROPERTY AS SURPLUS PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZING THE SALE, DISPOSAL, OR TRANSFER OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

President Anderson: Council, this was the first reading of Ordinance No. 17-2025. Are there any questions or discussion? Seeing none, we will see this again at our next meeting.

Resolution No. R09-2025

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO IMPOSE A FEE FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT VIDEO RECORDS

Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R09-2025; Mr. Jacobs seconded.

Mr. Gleaves: Mr. Uhl, maybe you know this question, but how is this fee determined?

Mr. Uhl: I will defer to Mr. Braun. He has a little more background on this whole house bill.

Mr. Braun: The fee was set by the legislature. They passed this as part of an appropriation ordinance in December, and this is the maximum fee that you can charge; \$75 an hour up to a total fee of \$750. So, what it means is it's not going to be \$750 for every request, it breaks it down and says it's based on the actual amount of time for legal review, redaction, staff time, things like that. So, it's an "up to \$750" fee. Again, the legislature set it. We didn't choose that amount per hour.

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Mr. Gleaves: Thank you.

President Anderson: Just a follow up question on that. Is there a "carve-out" for, do you know, for somebody who's part of an instance of say somebody had a police report or police where they're named on it. Is there a carve out, or are they in the same boat as any other member of the public?

Mr. Braun: There is not. What I will indicate to you, and I have talked with our Police Department about this. If it's something as simple as a document, which obviously we don't charge for those when they request, but, if it's something very simple, I think we've decided that's like less than 15 minutes, they're not going to charge. So, again, there's not anything built in, but they're going to kind of look at each request to see what's involved.

President Anderson: Right, but this ordinance lets the City Administration set the fee schedule. The question is probably for Administration then is in that fee schedule will there be a carve out if somebody is named in the police incident and they're trying to get that video, or is there not that flexibility?

Mr. Braun: There is no official carve out, just so you know in the legislation.

Mayor Hawkins: The idea there would be a universal fee that would not exceed what the State legislature has already put in place. If someone had, and someone could ask for body worn footage for any number of things, but, from a practical standpoint, if somebody found themselves charged with something, they'd get it through discovery, anyway, so, they'd have that availability. If somebody was not charged and they just wanted to know what happened on a certain day with a certain officer interaction, they'd have to go through that process. The big thing with regard to this is it takes a lot of people hours when folks are going through, they're redacting things. There are times when you'll have an officer holding a piece of paper, or holding an I.D. They'll have to blur those things out. There may be things with regard to other individuals that may be minors and have to blur those things out. So, for a 15, 20, 30 minute video, we may have staff spending much more time than that going through to redact things and so this is something that will help recoup some of that time that's spent. But, if someone's charged, they'll be able to get it through discovery just like they could now without a cost.

President Anderson: Thank you for that clarification.

Resolution No. R09-2025 passes with seven affirmative votes.

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Old Business

Mr. Vanover: This may be not necessarily Old Business. This really is kind of a public service announcement. Several years back, the Ohio State legislature approved the right turn on red, and it has become second nature. Unfortunately, there are a lot of drivers that have forgotten the last two words, "after stop". And that is becoming a frequent occurrence. The other thing is with the warm weather, there are pedestrians out, and I witnessed today, luckily, thank God, my wife nearly got taken out by an automobile on Chesterdale, and the guy, when she had the walk, and the pedestrian has the right of way, and it was a close call. I did get to scream at her, but do make yourself aware, because in this case, it was an adult, but it could be a small child and that's a whole other thing. And, finally, part of a backlash or process with Heritage Hill over there, the frequency of people, I applaud them for carpooling, but they're parking in the traffic waiting lane, waiting for people to pick up people instead of using a driveway, or parking in a spot. During daylight hours it's not too bad, but, during dark, it's a real quandary. And, also, Amazon, Kroger we witnessed an Amazon driver today pull up, driver going the wrong direction at the end of a driveway so he could get out on the driver's side when there was space across the street, and I know they're quick usually, but, just be courteous to the rest of the motoring public out there, and please, please, please be cognizant of pedestrians as they approach the crosswalk.

President Anderson: Thanks for that. And I know safer streets is something that we will be talking about as a Council as we do more developments. So, it's something to keep in mind; those call outs and how to address that. Part of that safer street initiative is supposed to account for that. So, the way that we design our streets, change we talked about with the Thoroughfare Plan, so that's certainly suitable to talk about now.

New Business

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None

Meetings and Announcements

Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup: Next Tuesday, April 8th at 7:00 p.m. in these chambers, Planning Commission will meet.

Mr. Uhl: Just a quick announcement. This Saturday, the Community Center will be holding its Annual Shred Event and that will run from 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. I.D.'s are required and that will all take place in the parking lot and there will be some signs directing people on where to go to drop off their documents for shredding.

Ms. Morgan: The Civil Service Commission will meet April 3rd, at 2:00 p.m. adjacent to these chambers.

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Mayor Hawkins: Also, want folks to know the Rec Center is doing a Golden Egg Hunt everyday. It's already started, so, along our bike path, there's a golden egg. You find it, you bring it in. There's a number of different rewards and treats you get, and they'll put it back out there. Something for everyone to check out.

President Anderson: Just as a hint, the egg is about this big and it is very much golden inside. I have seen it. It does exist. It's real. It is large.

Mr. Gleaves: I hope that egg is heavy with all this wind coming tonight. The BZA meeting is scheduled for the 22nd of this month at 7:00 p.m. in these chambers.

Ms. McFarland: The Board of Health will meet Thursday, April 10th at 6:30 p.m. in these chambers.

Communications from the Audience - None

Recap of Legislative Items

Mr. Jacobs: Council, as you review your Legislative Summary, Item I was addressed by Ordinance No. 15-2025; An Ordinance Accepting a Proposal Under the Ohio Department of Transportation Cooperative Purchasing Program and Authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to Enter Into an Agreement with Strawser Construction Inc. for the 2025 Annual Street Program Crack Seal and Cape Seal Project. That received a second reading and seven affirmative votes. Item II was addressed by Ordinance No. 16-2025; An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to Enter Into a Mutual Aid Agreement for Law Enforcement Between the City of Springdale, the City of Forest Park and the City of Fairfield. That received a second reading and seven affirmative votes. Item III was addressed by Ordinance No. 17-2025; An Ordinance Declaring Certain City Property as Surplus Property and Authorizing the Sale, Disposal, or Transfer of Surplus Property. That received a first reading and will receive a second reading on the 16th. Item IV; A Resolution Authorizing the City Administrator to Impose a Fee for Police Department Video Records was addressed by Resolution No. R09-2025 receiving a first reading and was acted upon with seven affirmative votes.

Legislation in Development

Mr. Jacobs: Item V will be addressed at our upcoming meeting on April 16th, a first reading; An Ordinance Amending Section 153.252(F)(6)(a)(i) of the Springdale Code of Ordinances Regulating the Permitted Number of Domesticated Pets. Unless there's anything else forthcoming from Administration.

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Adjournment

President Anderson: With that, all we have left tonight is Item 16.

Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup: Move to adjourn.

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

Council adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Browder
Clerk of Council

Minutes Approved:
Jeffrey Anderson, President of Council

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