

City of Springdale Council

October 1, 2025

President of Council Anderson called Council to order on October 1, 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 September 17, 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 – Fire Prevention Week

Mayor Hawkins presented Springdale Fire Chief Stanley with the proclamation declaring Fire Prevention Week from October 5th through October 11th, 2025.

Mayor Hawkins: And one last thing along the lines of Fire Prevention Week, we invite everyone to come out this Saturday from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. for our Fire Department Open House. Thank you.

President Anderson: Thank you, Mayor Hawkins, for those important reminders and Chief Stanley, as always, you're welcome here anytime.

Chief Stanley: Thank you, sir.

Communications - None

Communications from the Audience

Mr. Webster: My name is Doyle Webster. I live at 12142 Peak Drive, Springdale, Ohio. I want to talk a little bit about Ordinance No. 42-2025 which is on the agenda tonight for a first reading that addresses the pay for elected officials. I want to make one thing very clear; I am not against this body getting a raise. It's been 20 years. Take the raise. You deserve it. Okay. Now, the reason I'm here is I am opposed to the other provisions of this ordinance that indexes your pay to some factor outside the City like township trustees, commissioners, or whatever. I think that you deserve this raise, but I also think you owe it to the Community to be transparent about this. I think once you turn that over to some indexing, then all of the sudden you get a raise, and nobody knows about it. I mean, that's wrong. I've heard transparency come out of a lot of mouths around here and I think that would be the most untransparent thing that you could do is to turn your salary over to somebody outside of this City. I think there's certainly concern; a legitimate concern about your salary falling under the PERS level for full credit. And that's wrong. That should be looked at and I would think that maybe the Law Director could come up with some language that would direct the Administration or Finance Committee, or whoever, probably the Administration would be the best place to have it, periodically maybe every July or October, whenever PERS announces what the

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Mr. Webster (continued): thresholds are going to be for the coming year, then they take a look at that. If any elected official is going to fall below that, then they bring that to the President of Council and Council gets a chance to address that. If you don't want to vote yourself a raise, then fine. Don't do it. But I think you'd have every reason to do it if the PERS changes the minimum for qualifying. So, anyway, that's all I have to say. Thank you for listening to me. I did have a copy of this document that I guess Administration put together for Finance Committee. They've got 73 entities on here and only 11 of them had a higher salary than the Mayor. But I still think the Mayor should get a raise. Thank you very much.

Mayor Hawkins: Thank you, Mayor Webster, for coming out and we appreciate your input. I'm making what you're making, so, no change in that. So, and we're going to have the opportunity for discussion with regard to this when this comes up, but a few things we do want to state, and I know you know this but the people at home may not know this. Whenever there's been a change with regard to elected official's salary, nobody can vote on their own raise. So, this would take place after everybody on the dais is not in office. Somebody would have to run again to be elected, so, no one can vote on their own rates. And I know you know that, but I want to make sure that people at home understand that. And then, you're 100% right. It's been 20 years since there's been action taken by Council and that's not your fault because you weren't on City Council to go vote on it. I know that I personally, probably halfway through my last term, had referenced this issue before because I do work for a State entity and I do get PERS credit. I am aware when I get notices when things go down, so, when I knew that they were raising the minimum for full-year service credit, I had referenced it in a Council meeting. There were no takers with regard to addressing it. I think I said at the time, and I said it again sitting in this seat as Mayor when I raise it again. Folks can do whatever they want to. I'm getting full-service credit with my day job, but we historically, as you have indicated, our Elected Officials have gotten full year service credit and I'm just asking Mr. Uhl and Ms. Morgan, was it 2017?

Mr. Uhl: It was the last year.

Mayor Hawkins: So, 2017 was the last year that our Elected Officials, members of Council, were getting a full credit amount. So, that's eight years. That's not good. And, again, has nothing to do with the Mayor's office or Administration. That's an action of Council, so, I've raised it before; nobody wanted to do anything with it. And I understand. It's a sensitive topic, but again, you go back to you're not voting for yourself or your own compensation. You're voting for the next person that sits in that seat. And, if you run and you get reelected and you're in that seat when that takes place, God Bless, but it's not about you; it's about the next person. And so, I think that having been a member of Council we've missed the boat a little bit with regard to letting that slide for eight years of people not maintaining that which is something that I know historically has been a thing. So, let Mr. Uhl address some things with regard to those minimums and those built-in increases. I know we won't go deep diving into this because we've got this coming up, but just while the Mayor's there.

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President Anderson: If there's a quick conversation that's fine, but I did want to try and keep any deliberation or discussion around the ordinance in the section of the ordinance so that it's easier to find. But, if you do want to make a comment, please feel free.

Mr. Uhl: For OPERS, the percentage increases are directly related to the cost of living adjustments the Township Trustees, and County Commissioners receive, so that's how OPERS bases their minimum threshold, so we'll probably get into that a little bit more, but, that's where that automatic increase came into play because that five percent is how OPERS determines what the minimum contributions need to be made for a full year service credit.

Mr. Webster: My concern is that I don't want the City of Springdale to get on this slippery slope that a neighboring community has gotten on years ago and now they're paying their Mayor \$48,000. We're paying ours \$21,000. I mean, there's not that much of a difference in the type of government or responsibilities and that's the danger you run of just turning it over, well we'll index it to Trustees, or Commissioners, or whatever. So, I think you need to be concerned about that. Thank you.

Mr. Herbert: Good Evening. My name is Jeff Herbert, and I live down the street in Glendale, Ohio and I am a member of the Hamilton County America 250 Ohio Committee. And, Nicole, do they have a copy of the presentation?

Ms. Browder: We emailed slides.

Mr. Herbert: So, I'm assuming you have a copy or have seen it. But, basically, I'm here tonight not to ask for money; just to ask for your participation and make you aware of next year being the America 250 or the semi-quincentennial celebration of our country. At the federal level, there is a team and a mission that was established to help celebrate our anniversary next year and then on slide two of the presentation that you received, the State of Ohio has also established a committee and a framework to celebrate next year and they've also established a proposed count calendar, month by month next year for things that they want to highlight and help promote next year. Going down a level, Hamilton County Commissioners have established the same commission. It's led by Pavan Parikh from the Hamilton County Clerk of Courts in the Courthouse, and Elizabeth Pierce from the Cincinnati Museum Center. They formed a volunteer committee of 20 volunteers, including myself from the County to help promote, and get the word out and then, as we get into next year, establish concrete things that we're going to do to help promote it. But, what I'm asking you tonight is for your participation to become an official America 250 Ohio Community, the City of Springdale and, in the packet, there's a suggested adoption resolution to consider and then if, in subsequent discussions and so forth you decide to approve it and become an official America 250 Committee that framework is there to sign and so forth. Again, if you do decide, the Commissioner, or Nicole, or somebody, there is a workflow from the State of Ohio that you have to fill out with contact information saying that we want to participate. There's six steps that you have to go through in the workflow and then

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Mr. Herbert (continued): you receive confirmation that you're an official committee and community. There's logos that you can use to help display things. We would get a calendar of events that you're going to do that you want us to help promote for you. Likewise, the things that the County and neighborhood communities, I've already spoken to Glendale, Wyoming, Miami Township and so forth. As they get on board and start establishing things and you want to promote it or advertise it to your Community, then you would have that available to you. So, it's just something we're trying to get started now before the first of the year, because, once January comes, there will be a lot of activities and get the word out, and that's basically it. Thank you for your time.

President Anderson: I'll say thank you for coming in and sharing this with us. I know when I heard that you were coming and the information was shared, I spent a little bit of time looking at the 250 website that's out there and it had a lot of this same information that's useful. One thing that I thought was interesting is this is a bipartisan committee that was formed, I think it started in 2017 under President Obama and then was carried on in subsequent presidencies the co-chairs at the national level include President Obama and President Bush; former presidents that both chair that, so this isn't a secular thing or one of those beat your chest type issue or dividing thing. This is supposed to be, as I understand it, something that brings the community together.

Mr. Herbert: Correct.

President Anderson: And I think that's important in these days to recognize that some of these things are, it's not a dog whistle for something else, this is just celebrating our country. For Council's benefit, what I'll share is that he mentioned the ordinance and the process. I that's something that Council is interested in doing, you certainly have the opportunity to bring forward that ordinance on your own at any subsequent meetings. Just add it to the agenda. Certainly, you can bring it up in New Business, either tonight or in subsequent meetings after you've looked at it. It might be good to review the material and get a feel for it before we make a decision to move forward but just know process wise that if it's something you think the City should participate in that's certainly any Councilmember's prerogative to bring forward.

Mr. Herbert: Very good. Thank you for your time.

President Anderson: Thank you.

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Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance No. 40-2025 (Second Reading with Emergency Clause)

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AND IMPLEMENTING A PROGRAM TO CHARGE MITIGATION RATES FOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF EMERGENCY AND NON-EMERGENCY SERVICES BY THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Vanover made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 40-2025; Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded.

Ordinance No. 40-2025 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Ordinance No. 41-2025 (Second Reading with Emergency Clause)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH FIRE RECOVERY USA, LLC FOR BILLING SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH THE RECOVERY OF MITIGATION FEES CHARGED BY THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE FOR EMERGENCY AND NON-EMERGENCY SERVICES PERFORMED BY THE SPRINGDALE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Vanover made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 41-2025; Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded.

Ordinance No. 41-2025 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Ordinance No. 42-2025 (First Reading)

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION AND COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE OFFICES OF MAYOR, PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL, AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH STATE STATUTES

President Anderson: Council, this was the first reading of Ordinance No. 42-2025. This was an ordinance that was brought forth by the Finance Committee, so I don't know if Mr. Vanover or Ms. Webster wanted to speak to this before we open it up for general questions?

Mr. Vanover: We, as I alluded in the last meeting, this was coming forth. We discussed that. There are some of these that don't matter to me, to be honest. The Rec Center, I'm Silver Sneakers so I've earned that benefit from there. The medical care insurance that's, again, it's not going to apply to me because we're past that. And, again, these are, with the exception of the Rec Center, the healthcare is optional. You can pick that up or decide not to. That's the individual. I'm not overly excited about it, but it's not going to have any effect on me. The compensation, yes, it's been 20 years. We're long overdue. I do tend to agree with the comment that Mayor Webster mentioned about choosing what anchor that we tie to. I think that if, well, for example, if OPERS comes in and says, "Well, there's not any increase", but the Township Trustees give themselves

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Mr. Vanover (continued): an increase, then was it really warranted? And I understand the politics of the whole picture and as Mayor Webster said, I mean the ordinance spells it out that these don't take effect until January 1, 2027, so, basically the potential; none of us sitting up here can be there or would possibly not be there or will be there. But State law says that's the way it is. So, that being said, it's really, I guess, at this point, we throw it open and discuss. We can go section by section, or if somebody's got one, they want to talk about, then we go from there. But it's your show.

Mayor Hawkins: Just a few things for clarity's sake and, obviously, Mr. Vanover and Ms. Webster were there for the Finance Committee discussions and so they've had a very in-depth opportunity to hear and review some of these things. So, there is a minimum amount of money that a person has to make to have the minimum OPERS credit for a service year. If it's less than that, then they would get a half year's credit if they serve for the capacity of a full year. We found through looking at some other municipalities is they have tied the elected officials' salary or income to percentages of sometimes it's County, Trustees, sometimes it's County Commissioners. Now it's important to know that County Commissioners, Township Trustees, Judges, Prosecutors have salaries that are dictated by the Ohio Revised Code. So, there's not a choice if you're the prosecutor to go, "Hey, I want to get paid 'x'". It's a statutory thing. Within that office, you can pay your employees whatever you want to and there are some instances where you may have an employee that could get more than the prosecutor if they wanted to. But those are statutory. So, some of the things that you'll see with regard to other municipalities, they will say we're going to do a percentage of Township Trustees, or they may say we're going to do a percentage of County Commissioners. Now, that is a very big difference between those two entities. Between what County Commissioners make and what Township Trustees make. I believe the County Commissioners are getting \$112,000. So, if you say, "hey, we're going to take 41% of \$112,000; that's a lot of money, right? Versus Township Trustees are around \$26,000, right? So, if you're doing a percentage of that, that's a far smaller amount of money. The idea, primarily with regard to this, is making sure, as we've done historically, the Elected Officials for the City are going to be over the minimum required for OPERS credit. And, if you're looking at this, and Mr. Uhl can give you some more details, but, if this was passed, when this would take effect on December 1, 2027, we would be just over that minimum by approximately \$200. For eight years approximately, we've been under. And, so, it's important to be able to go through and address. However, that gets talked about and Mayor Webster raises a very valid point in terms of making sure people know what's happening. And I think there's probably some opportunities to go through and do that. In terms of one, it's going to have to be budgeted for, so when there's those discussions, that can be raised either by Finance Committee report as well as when Council goes through and looks to approve the budget. The other thing that's very important that we talked about during the Finance Committee meeting was just because the statute creates a circumstance where Township Trustees go up five percent, three percent, whatever it is, Council still; it's not a runaway train. Council could still sit there and go, "We're not going to have that increase". What this does create is an opportunity where these

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Mayor Hawkins (continued): things can happen automatically with some type of structure to make sure folks are staying ahead of the minimum service credit without it coming back through to go through and address. Now, the 20 years that have gone by, in talking with some other former Councilmembers from years, years, and years gone by and Mayor Webster would, I'm sure say it too, those things are contentious sometimes, those are things that make people feel uncomfortable about voting on, and I think the number one misconception is people are voting for their own salaries. They're not. None of these things take effect with anybody who is on this dais, unless that individual is reelected. Okay. So, this is about making decisions for those other people, and I've said, as a former member of Council when these things came up, I'll sit here and say those Councils that I was a part of missed the boat for eight years; two terms worth of people that are under the mandatory minimum and that's not what we've done historically. And, so, it's an opportunity to make sure that we're going to stay above those things. Thank you.

Mr. Uhl: So, one of the questions is, "How did you land at this number?" Essentially, what we did is we looked at the salary that the Finance Director/Clerk of Council was making, \$16,800 and divided that by eight elected officials. That subsequently gave us \$2,100 per elected official. So, we just added that to the salary, then we looked at what the Mayor's compensation was, and just brought that back up to what was approved in 2005. We went back to look at Ohio Public Employees Retirement System, and in Ohio Revised Code Section 145.016, that determines the credit for contributing service. Within that Code, it's directly linked to Section 505.24, which establishes the percentage increases for Township Trustees. So, for example, because of the modest amount that the Councilmembers are considering for their annual salary, in 2028, because we'll look at a full year of service credit, so the minimum salary a person would need to make to get a full year of service credit through OPERS is \$10,197.30. If Council passes this ordinance with the proposed \$9,975.00 that would go into effect December 1st, there's a trigger for a five percent increase effective January 1, 2028, which effectively would put Councilmembers at \$10,473.00. So, the difference, the minimum service credit is \$10,197.30, and Council would be at \$10,473.00. So, roughly about \$280 above what that OPERS minimum contribution needs to be. That's why marrying the two or keeping the section in to stay in line with the percentage increases for Township Trustees, that's directly linked back to the ORC Section, established by OPERS, which dictates their percentage increases. That would ensure that Elected Officials will remain slightly above what the minimum threshold is for OPERS service credit.

President Anderson: So, just to make sure that I followed that last part because I was trying to figure out why we weren't just tying it to the OPERS one-year service credit. So, you're saying that it's better to apply it to the statutory code that OPERS uses?

Mr. Uhl: Because it changes every year, sometimes they set it out for four or five years in advance. Like they have it run out through 2029 currently. So, if it weren't, it would be a moving target that council would have to come back to, and they would apply it to some and not others depending on when the legislation would be passed.

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President Anderson: So, it's not so much that we're trying to tie it to Township Trustees, it's just that's a convenient tool to stay in line with the OPERS.

Mr. Uhl: Correct. Because the percentage increase, for Township Trustees and County Commissioners is how OPERS determines their minimum service credit. So, it goes up by that percentage. So that's an easy way to keep things on par. Albeit, Councilmembers will not be compensated the same as a County Commissioner, or Township Trustee.

President Anderson: But it keeps the percentage which then keeps us in line.

Mr. Uhl: Correct. The percentage keeps us just slightly above what that minimum threshold needs to be.

Mr. Jacobs: In regards to that, I think the question may be answered. Let's say if we go back eight years, or even ahead five. Typically, how often does OPERS change that floor? I know they can every year. But do they?

Mr. Uhl: Yes. They change it every year.

Mr. Jacobs: Every single year?

Mr. Uhl: Yes.

Mr. Jacobs: Okay. Thank you. Unless anyone else has any questions about that part. In looking at this, I understand it. I appreciate the Mayor's comments that he says we're worth it. That means a lot. I think it's a modest increase. But, as I'm looking at some of these, I can't get behind Section 6. I don't feel comfortable getting a free Community Center membership just because I happen to win an election. It's a small amount of money. I'm not saying it's going to cost the City a lot, but, by that same token, it doesn't cost me a lot. And I feel like paying that membership is part of me being a resident of the City and I don't mind doing it. Again, I know it's not a big-ticket item, but I feel like it's unnecessary personally and I think it's a bit more than we need. I've also heard some concerns about Section 8, but for me personally, I would like to see Section 6 struck from this ordinance. Thank you.

Mayor Hawkins: To Mr. Jacobs comments, I appreciate those. With regard to Section 6 and the Springdale Community Center, that came up because, as I was sitting there looking at the things that our employees get without cost, that's one of those things. And, so, as I sat there and said, "Well, we should offer that to Elected Officials. We should just do that." Well, we can't just do that because it's compensation. So, Council would have to go vote on that. But that's how that came up. It's not something where the idea is, "Hey, let's figure out something 'cushy' to give elected officials". It's because our employees throughout the organization get that. And, so, some of the conversations we've had internally in terms of the Administration

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Mayor Hawkins (continued): is, are there things that everyone who works for Springdale gets that it makes sense for Elected Officials to be able to receive, within reason, right? And that was something that seemed very simple. Part of what all Elected Officials will do, hopefully, is, be in and around our City. You being in the Community Center; in and around there is part of your duties as an elected official to see and be a part of what's going on. But whatever Council decides, but I wanted you to know that's the context where that came from.

Mrs. Webster: I'd just like to say that I do agree with Mr. Jacobs on the free stuff at the Rec Center and the medical stuff. I'm like you. I don't really think we need it. Thank you.

Mr. Uhl: Just a note on the healthcare. That was something that we saw on some other ordinances with other elected officials. So, that's why we included it. But I will say the percentages I know in Finance Committee they asked us to look at like 25, 50, 75% annual premium. Once we started doing that, once we got much above 35%, the annual salary that you would earn wouldn't cover the cost of the premiums. So, at a 7.5% increase is what our healthcare has been increasing over the last two years, three years. I think it was five one year and 7.5, 7.5, so it would quickly outpace what you would earn salary-wise. So, trying to provide a little bit of a cushion to make it potentially tolerable, but obviously if that's something that you choose to leave in.

President Anderson: While we're on the topic of Section 8, I had questions about that one as well. I heard Mr. Vanover's comments that it wouldn't necessarily apply to him, which I understand that. Once you get to a certain point, the insurance, you move to Medicare or a different program or have pension programs. One of the things that was a concern for me with Section 8 is that working families in cases where the spouse of an elected official would be working, more and more companies are adding rules to their policies that if their spouse or family member is offered insurance and they're added at their place of work, that they're no longer eligible then for the company benefits of that spouse and that can sometimes come at a pretty steep premium for it being family membership versus two individual policies. So, my concern when I saw this right away was those types of elected officials, this would actually end up just by offering it would end up costing them more than their salary to get health benefits. So, it doesn't become a health benefit anymore if you're in the case where you have a working spouse where they have a better plan or a plan that you've been a part of. I know it also would have an impact for anyone that would be a part of the ACA or marketplace be it offered insurance through the workplace changes the benefits that are available. So, just by offering them can be actually a barrier in this case unless it's a very generous plan it actually could be a detriment. So, I understand. I appreciate wanting to add it to make it uniform, but it's something that I'm not sure that is warranted for this type of position. So, I would prefer we not include Section 8 for that reason. In terms of Section 6, I agree with the Mayor's sentiments. It's a minor benefit and it removes a barrier for somebody to be more freely a part of the Community events, I think it's a great thing to include, but it's not a hill I would die on. I think it makes sense to include, but if people don't, I don't have any problem with it. But I'm not

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President Anderson (continued): comfortable with Section 8 just in general. So, we heard a fair amount of discussion on this item. We certainly have the opportunity to have it on our agenda next time unless Finance Committee wanted to take it back to their Committee and make adjustments before. We have the opportunity as Council in the meeting this time or next time to make amendments from the floor, and we can strike things, or we could have a clean copy that the Committee brings back for our next meeting since we have time. So, I didn't know if you wanted to take that as an opportunity to take the feedback and make changes.

Mr. Vanover: We can. We have a little bit of time, but due to the legal definitions, this has to be done before December to keep everybody legal. But, yes, we can take back. I guess the easiest way so that when we bring an endorsement back that it's accurate to what Council is looking for. So, maybe we walk through, well, I guess the two sections that are brought up are Section 6 and Section 8 and maybe just take a quick vote tally and seeing if it's the majority that doesn't want those, we'll do them individually, then the ordinance, when it comes back will reflect what Council's wishes are.

President Anderson: I don't think we can take a formal vote or a straw poll from the dais unless there's an actual motion that we're acting on, but I think. (Looked to Law Director for verification) You're agreeing that's correct.

Interim Law Director, Jeffrey Levine: That's correct.

President Anderson: So, I'm hearing from the Law Director that's correct. We can't actually take a straw poll up here unless there's an actual motion to amend or change, but I think you've heard feedback on those two and where people are at. I would encourage people to contact Mrs. Webster or Mr. Vanover before that meeting and share those comments. Just because they're having a Committee meeting doesn't mean that we can't share our input directly with them one on one. You're certainly able to do that. Just be mindful of open meeting rules that you're not doing that as a group, but you can certainly share your view with other Councilmembers going into Committee.

Mr. Jacobs made a motion to strike Section 8 from Ordinance No. 42-2025; Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded.

President Anderson: Well, I will say that I certainly would like to see it stricken so that will have my vote.

Motion to strike Section 8 from Ordinance No. 42-2025 passes with seven affirmative votes.

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President Anderson: So, the motion to remove Section 8 has been approved by seven affirmative votes. So, going forward, we will refer to this ordinance as Ordinance No. 42-2025 as amended. And Section 8 has been stricken and then we'll update the subsequent section numbers, nine and ten will be changed in the next version.

Mr. Vanover: Would there be any aversion that when we bring this back to Council next meeting to include the emergency clause? We would have a second reading, and then have that so that the paperwork is done?

President Anderson: I can say, from my perspective I don't see any problem with that because the ordinance actually doesn't take effect until years later, and there's certainly opportunity for future Councils to change this before it would take effect. So, just because the raises would come in 2027, any time before then the Councils before that could make another change. So, I wouldn't have any problem with that. I don't know if anyone else would want to share their thoughts. We're still in deliberations for Ordinance No. 42-2025. Any other comments?

Mrs. Webster: Did you say, "Old Business"?

President Anderson: Not yet.

Mrs. Webster: Oh, okay.

President Anderson: We still have a resolution before that.

Mrs. Webster: I'm ready for it.

President Anderson: Mr. Vanover, you can decide if you think it's worthwhile to have a committee meeting or just finish this before the next meeting. I'll leave that to you and Mrs. Webster.

Resolution No. R16-2025

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR

Mr. Vanover made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R16-2025; Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded.

Resolution No. R16-2025 passes with seven affirmative votes.

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Old Business

Mrs. Webster: I'm going to ask Administration and the Law Director, I'm sorry, I don't know your name. I see Mr. Braun's there. There is a scuttlebutt in the City about us having three marijuana dispensaries. I don't know how many of you have heard about this, read about it on Facebook or whatever, but I'd like a clarification as the residents would. Because I don't want Springdale to be known as the marijuana capital of Hamilton County.

Mayor Hawkins: Mrs. Webster, thank you for bringing this issue up. And it's important that people do not get their information from Facebook sites that are not the City's. You have questions, you do one or two things; either call the City or call one of the Elected Officials. That's how you get information, not from asking random people online. Okay, that said, so, City Council voted and put in an ordinance there are to be no more than two dispensaries in the City. So, City Council authorized the Mayor to issue no more than two licenses. And, so, that means just that. Now, as Mayor, I can issue one license, two licenses, or no licenses. And, so, but I can't go beyond two unless City Council does something different, and, so, as of right now, there have been two licenses issued. I think some of the discussion that people may have is these dispensary opportunities are very exciting for people that are in that business. It appears there must be a lot of money in that situation because they're very competitive in trying to get their hands on them. And, so, we've seen that. Despite issuing two, there's been another entity that's been around and I think at one point they were going to come to Planning Commission and they've gone and applied for different things and they've applied for a State license, but that's still different from our Springdale license, and City Council controls if we're going to have that in our City and how many we will have in our City at a maximum. And, from the Mayor's side in terms of checks and balances, it's up to me if we issue any licenses, but I can't issue more licenses than what Council has allowed for. So, we're in the legal limits of two, and myself, Administration, our Building Department have explained to the third entity that we can only issue two, and that's it. Unless Council does something different; that's it. So, I think that may have had some impact with regard to the one pulling their Planning Commission application some months ago. But, yes, it's a great thing to bring up and for clarity of everybody's clarity's sake, Council's only authorized two. We can't have more than two by our own law. We control that.

Mrs. Webster: Okay, there's talk that the State is the one that has told somebody that they want to come in here. Over by Chili's I think?

Mayor Hawkins: And, so, you're correct. So, the issue is there are State guidelines, but we as having home rule, we control our own thing. So, you can get whatever license you want from the State of Ohio. It doesn't mean that we have to let you into our City of Springdale. And, so, you're correct. There are entities that have gone and gotten a State license, but it doesn't mean that they get a Springdale license.

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Mrs. Webster: Okay, that's good. I'm glad to know that because a lot of people aren't really happy thinking that. Thank you.

Mayor Hawkins: Thank you.

New Business

President Anderson: I do have one item tonight. Just a piece of housekeeping. As we saw at, I think our last meeting, we had an ordinance that came through from the Urban Farming Committee that was finished and that, to my knowledge, and after speaking with the Chair, have decided that they've completed the tasks, the scope of work that they had related to that Committee. So, I'm just letting Council know tonight that I'm disbanding, with my thanks, the work that was done there, and the Urban Farming Committee has been disbanded having completed its scope of work. So, thank you Ms. McFarland and Mr. Jacobs for going through that process. I think everyone on Council learned a lot going through it with zoning changes in general. We worked through some things on how to work better with Planning Commission, which was very helpful, and then we also made the City more friendly for bees, which I think was a great move, so thank you for that work and at this point that Committee is now closed.

Mr. Vanover: I guess since we had the presentation this evening, what would be Council's would they want to see the American 250 ordinance/resolution come in because it will need to recommend to Administration and Law Department that they get this put together.

Mr. Jacobs: I'm in favor of doing that. I first saw this earlier this year, and I did send an email, but it was just kind of an informational thing that this project was being developed. So, I'd be in favor of bringing it in front of Council, and I'd be in favor of the City joining the effort.

Ms. McFarland: Yes, I agree, I would be in favor. If the City or whoever has more information could pass that on to us so we can kind of review. I've seen some of the stuff they've sent out, but not sure if I'm missing anything.

Mr. Gleaves: I just want to be clear on this. The man that came forward said there was a presentation that was sent. What's going on with that? Because I didn't get it.

President Anderson: So, let me give a couple of things on this just so we can make sure we're following the process the way we should. So, the gentleman that came forward to speak represented it, you will receive that packet. I don't know that it's gone out to everyone yet, but you will have a chance to have that. Included in that is a sample ordinance. What we would have to do based on our rules of Council tonight is if Council wanted to request that ordinance be created that we have a process for that and what it would take is that a motion inside of New Business to explore or creating or following that 250 Commission presentation. That would then, once that would be

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President Anderson (continued): moved and seconded, we would have discussion and then vote on it. If Council agreed to that, it would just then be that I would be responsible to work with Mr. Braun, our Law Director to work through that ordinance that would be needed and bring that to Council at our next meeting, or whenever you're available, which will probably be the next meeting, and then it's an ordinance and it has steps that we would have to do. Inside of that is things that we'd be asking Administration to do as part of it, and we could have all those discussions. But the first step on that would be a motion by Council to join the 250 Commission based on the sample ordinances and then I would take it from there.

Mr. Vanover made a motion that the City of Springdale join in to the America 250 City Designation and the appropriate ordinances be drawn up and presented to Council; Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded.

Motion to have the City of Springdale join in to the America 250 City Designation and the appropriate ordinances be drawn up and presented to Council passes with seven affirmative votes.

President Anderson: While this vote did not join us to it, it just means that Council as a whole is taking that action. The reason that's different than just a Councilperson making that action is now for us to not have it on our agenda, it would take an act of Council. So, it's just a way to make sure that we will be tracking this one very closely.

Mr. Uhl: Just to answer Mr. Gleaves' question. We'll get that pdf out. It was five PowerPoint slides that, when he reached out to us and said he wanted to come and talk to Council or at the Council meeting to talk about America 250, he said he would come in or whatever we'd let him talk. As a normal practice we don't put presentations up unless it's an actual presentation that either Council is requesting, or Administration is requesting. So, we will get those PowerPoint slides out to everyone tomorrow.

Mr. Gleaves: Thank you.

Meetings and Announcements

Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup: Planning Commission will meet in these chambers on Tuesday, October 14th at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Vanover: Rental Committee will meet October 8th at 2:00 in the Caucus Room.

Mayor Hawkins: Just again a reminder to join Chief Stanley at the Firehouse this Saturday, from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Also, there will be a ribbon cutting for Tinker's Treasures this Saturday at 9:00 a.m. over on Kemper Commons Circle.

Mr. Gleaves: The Zoning Code Revision Committee is scheduled to meet in the room adjacent to these chambers October 13th at 2:30 p.m.

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Ms. McFarland: Board of Health will meet in these chambers on October 9th at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Uhl: Saturday is going to be a busy day. We also have our Health Fair from noon to 3:00 p.m. at the Community Center in the Auxiliary Gym. This Saturday, October 4th.

Ms. Morgan: The Civil Service Commission will meet tomorrow, Thursday, October 2nd at 2:00 p.m. adjacent to these chambers.

Communications from the Audience - None

Recap of Legislative Items

Mr. Jacobs: Council, as you review your Legislative Summary, Item I; An Ordinance Establishing and Implementing a Program to Charge Mitigation Rates for the Deployment of Emergency and Non-Emergency Services by the Springdale Fire Department and Declaring an Emergency was addressed by Ordinance No. 40-2025 receiving a second reading and seven affirmative votes. Item II; An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to Enter Into an Agreement with Fire Recovery USA, LLC for Billing Services Associated with the Recovery of Mitigation Fees Charged by the City of Springdale for Emergency and Non-Emergency Services Performed by the Springdale Fire Department and Declaring an Emergency; that was addressed by Ordinance No. 41-2025 receiving a second reading and seven affirmative votes. Item III was A Resolution Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying them to the County Auditor; that was addressed by Resolution No. R16-2025 receiving seven affirmative votes. Item IV; An Ordinance Establishing Compensation and Cost-of-Living Adjustments for the Offices of Mayor, President of Council, and Members of City Council, Consistent with State Statutes was addressed by Ordinance No. 42-2025 receiving a first reading was amended and will return to us on October 15th as amended.

Legislation in Development

Mr. Jacobs: In development, we have Item V; An Ordinance Amending Chapter 94 of the Springdale Code of Ordinances Regulating Taxation. That will receive a first reading on October 15th. Item VI; An Ordinance Declaring Certain City Property as Surplus Property and Authorizing the Sale, Disposal, or Transfer of Surplus Property will receive a first reading at our next meeting on October 15th. And, finally, there was a vote by Council to direct Administration to draft some legislation to join the America 250 Project with seven affirmative votes. Unless there's anything else from Administration, that's all we have.

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Adjournment

President Anderson: Then all that's left before us is Item 15.

Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup: Move to adjourn.

President Anderson: Before we adjourn, "Go Reds". We're adjourned.

Council adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Browder
Clerk of Council

Minutes Approved:
Jeffrey Anderson, President of Council

_____, 2025