

City of Springdale Council

January 2, 2025

President of Council Anderson called Council to order on January 2, 2025.

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

Mr. Jacobs provided the Invocation.

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

The minutes of the December 18, 2024 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 (Sullivan-Wisecup, Webster).

Communications	-	None
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Communications from the Audience

Ms. Bollinger: My name is Denise Bollinger, I am at 113 Rosetta Court. I am just here to talk about the chickens, and, also, to invite you guys to our SYB Winter Sports Rally tomorrow at 6:30. If you guys wanted to get there early you could. But, you're all invited to be there and join us. And then also, I just wanted to speak on the chickens. I spoke last time. I just think if it doesn't go through tonight that maybe we should thinking about putting it on a ballot. I know I saw that on social media already. I think that's a really good idea because when you guys did the voting through the Springdale thing, not many people knew about it, so about only 100 people actually did the survey; no more than 100. And, there's 12,000 people in Springdale, so that's not really a good idea on who actually wants and who doesn't, so, I think that if we put it on a ballot, that we would get a better idea if Springdale is more for it or against it. I also think that we should have the whole thing on the ballot, not just chickens because the whole thing has rabbits, and bees, and fowl, so, I think that the whole thing should be involved in that. But, that's just my personal opinion. I think we would be able to get a better look on who actually would want it and not want it if we had it out there on the ballot. That's all I have to say. Thank you for your time.

Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance No. 55-2024

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 153.252(F)(6)(c) OF THE SPRINGDALE CODE OF ORDINANCES REGULATING THE HUSBANDRY OF FOWL, RABBITS, AND BEES

President Anderson: There is a public hearing attached to this, and this is a third reading. So, how we're going to handle this tonight is we'll go ahead and read

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President Anderson (continued): the ordinance for the third time, then, we'll have the public hearing so people have an opportunity if anyone in the audience wants to address Council related just to this ordinance, they'll have that opportunity and then Council can decide how they want to dispose of it. So, at this point, we'll go ahead and do the reading of Ordinance No. 55-2024.

President Anderson: At this point, we're going to go ahead and open the public hearing. So, if anyone in the audience would like to address Council related to Ordinance No. 55-2024, this is your opportunity. Just like with the Communications to Council, you would simply come to the podium, sign in, state your name, and address and then you can address Council, again for up to five minutes related to ordinance No. 55-2024. At this point the public hearing is open. (no response from audience). At this point, I'm going to be closing the public hearing related to Ordinance No. 55-2024.

Mr. Jacobs made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 55-2024; Mrs. Webster seconded.

Mr. Jacobs: Just to kind of review the long process, and it has been a long process. I appreciate all the help from Administration and Michelle (McFarland). It was a long haul, and we had some things that lead to some unexpected bumps. We spent a lot of time trying to find out if we should take this ordinance out of the Zoning Code, for example, that took several weeks. And then, we wanted to respond to Planning Commission's concerns, and that added a few more weeks on to the process, so I know that's been a long road. But, in summary, at the end of the day, what we've done is we've relaxed one restriction and then added a whole bunch of restrictions that didn't exist before. We took the acreage from three acres down to a half acre. All the other additional restrictions are the most strict you would find in any community in the area. There are restrictions that aren't included in some of the models that we looked at. The goal all along was to try to allow residents to have some more freedom to do what they want with their property, but, also balancing that out with neighbor's concerns that would naturally come up, and I feel like we've done that. When we lowered this down to 25 permits, we're talking about less than one percent of residences in the City. The number of residents who are even able to apply for a permit is 134 residences, and we're talking 25 of those. So, I would ask my colleagues if you're at all interested in allowing residents to have some more freedom to use their property as they see fit while balancing out neighbor's concerns, I think 25 permits is a good try. It's a good attempt to see how well this goes, and I would be among the first that would move to amend or go back to more clear restrictions if it doesn't go well. That being said, I feel like they worked really well with Administration. They feel comfortable enforcing this, and, so, I'll be voting "yes" on this Ordinance. Thank you.

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Mrs. Webster: I don't know your name, the lady that comes up here all the time about this ordinance. I really am sorry you've had to go through this all year. Well, I personally don't think it was handled right from the beginning, that's pre-committee. I really can't vote for this because I know they're your pets, and I have a pet, and I know how you feel. But, it is the law, and I am kind of a "law and order" type person. So, I will have to vote against it, but, thank you for your patience and thank you for your perseverance for what you really believe in. Thank you.

Mr. Vanover: Just one comment. Well, I will state up front I am not in support of this. Part of it is we've pulled probably the most ecologically beneficial creature out of it. The bees, to me, would be more environmentally beneficial and friendly than what chickens are. And, I guess the other caveat, I guess it would go to Mr. Braun. Since this came back to Council with a negative recommendation from Planning Commission, it will take a super majority, correct?

President Anderson: Yes. That's already been confirmed. I was going to mention that once we finished our deliberations that it will take a super majority of Council in order to pass because the version that went to Planning did not receive their recommendation. The other thing I'll add, Mr. Vanover, for your benefit is when we created the Committee for Urban Farming, its task was to look at all three areas, and it was much like the Rental Program Committee. It was decided to do it in phases. So, they started with chickens because there was more public interest for that. There's nothing that prevents them from going back and removing further remaining items. So, if your only concern was that, that they were ignoring the bees in that area. That's not an issue. They have the charter to go back and do those after this if they so choose.

Mr. Gleaves: I'd just like to thank the Committee for the job that they've done. I was able to attend one meeting. I was impressed with how you committed to getting to an answer. I thought the QR Code was great. Administration, thank you for doing what you all have done. That's basically all I wanted to say. I thought you did a great job, and thank you so much for your work.

President Anderson: I'll add my comments to that. As Mr. Gleaves said, it was quite a bit of work to get it to this level of detail. They were asked to look at Zoning Code, which is always a long road and difficult to do. I personally believe that the section of code that we're talking about did need to be updated, which is why I agreed when Councilmembers asked me if they could look at this, that I agreed that it made a lot of sense to do that. Right now, chickens are permitted in Springdale, and there's no licensing, there's no health checks, there's no reviews of those pens. It is limited based on the acreage, but, it seems like we're not doing our job if we're just ignoring the rest of it. So, I feel like that this is a fair start and a good way to look at what is something that our neighboring communities do which is permit these. Our neighboring communities actually have fewer restrictions than what's been proposed here by the Committee. But, as Mr. Vanover mentioned, it will require a

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President Anderson (continued): super majority to pass. I personally support property rights and the ability for people to take care of animals that they think are important to them. This would be one of them; fowl, rabbits, and bees. The world has changed. I know I was just at Kroger the other day, or Jungle Jim's, and they had a sale on eggs from \$5.49 to \$2.99 for eggs, and, I was thinking, "Man, I wish I had chickens a year ago". But, that being said, it is a change, and it is significant, which is why we approached it with deliberation and consideration. I appreciate the work that the Committee has done to get us to this point. If there's no other comments or questions, we can go ahead and take a vote on this.

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 55-2024 fails with four affirmative votes (Jacobs, McFarland, Gleaves, Anderson) and three opposing votes (Sullivan-Wisecup, Vanover, Webster).

President Anderson: While it has four votes, it does require a super majority. For people who are familiar asking about the process from here, Council is not permitted to take up a similar ordinance for at least 90 days, at which time it could certainly take up an ordinance related to Section 153.252(F)(6)(c) again if there was desire from the Committee to immediately jump back in and look at bees or rabbits, we'd want to check with Mr. Braun to make sure that, I know you can do the committee work if you wanted to ahead of that, and you could also go back and look at fowl as well if you thought it was important based on the feedback you got through this process. I know you learned a lot working with Planning and there might be a different way to do this where it won't require a super majority, but, you're certainly still empowered to do that as a Committee. The other point I'll make that was brought up during Communications from the Audience, there has been a lot of discussion that I've certainly seen in the Community for a citizen's initiative. That's not something that Council does; it's something that residents would have to do if they wanted to do it. There's a process that's outlined in our Charter and the Board of Elections can also help you with that if anyone out there in Springdale wants to take that up themselves. It's called a citizen referendum, or citizen ordinance, and the Board of Elections could help you with that as well. Mr. Braun did you have another comment on that?

Mr. Braun: No, I was just going to point out that if there is a desire to take it up so that we don't need that two thirds vote, we may want to involve the Planning Commission; all of the steps be involved so that we don't run into that situation if we think there were because, as you'll recall, they came back with a long list of things that they wanted to address that the Committee then had to go and address, and maybe we could shorten that process, so I just wanted to remind everyone of that.

President Anderson: Thank you, and I think we took that note when we sent to Rules and Law the question about dogs and domestic animals that could be said, that was some feedback that was given then as well.

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Ordinance No. 01-2025

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION/ESTIMATED RECEIPTS ORDINANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025

President Anderson: This is a financial ordinance so it does not require a second reading, is that right, Mr. Braun?

Mr. Vanover made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 01-2025; Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded.

Ordinance No. 01-2025 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Ordinance No. 02-2025

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO A BUSINESS INCENTIVE GRANT AGREEMENT WITH G5 ENTERTAINMENT, LLC

President Anderson: Council, you've heard the first reading of Ordinance No. 2-2025 is there any questions or discussion tonight? (None) Seeing none, we will see this again at our next meeting.

Ordinance No. 03-2025

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH MITCHELL'S SALON & DAY SPA, INC. RELATED TO A JOB CREATION AND RETENTION PROGRAM AGREEMENT

President Anderson: Council, this was the first reading of Ordinance No. 3-2025. Any questions or discussion this evening? (None) Seeing none, we will see this again at our next meeting.

Ordinance No. 04-2025

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH SALAS O'BRIEN, INC. RELATED TO A JOB CREATION AND RETENTION PROGRAM AGREEMENT

President Anderson: Council, you've heard the first reading of Ordinance No. 4-2025 are there any questions or discussion this evening? (None) Seeing none, we will see this again at our next meeting.

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Resolution No. R01-2025

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING ADVANCE PAYMENT FROM THE HAMILTON COUNTY AUDITOR

Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R01-2025; Mr. Gleaves seconded.

Resolution No. R01-2025 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Resolution No. R02-2025

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INVESTMENT OF MUNICIPAL FUNDS

Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R02-2025; Mr. Vanover seconded.

Resolution No. R02-2025 passes with seven affirmative votes.

President Anderson: Next we're coming up against appointments. I know the packet went out without a name for the Mayoral appointment. Is there a name that you wanted to insert, or is this something we should park for a later date?

Mayor Hawkins: I'd like to appoint Kimberly Kraft to the Board of Health. Just briefly, she's been a 40 year resident, she's a retired RN. She's been a charge nurse, she's been a neurological surgical nurse doing pre-op, intra-op, and post-op regarding those things, and she also was a value analysis coordinator where she was going through negotiating and selecting vendors for the supply chain management, so, I think she'd be a great asset to the Board of Health, and looking for Council's support.

President Anderson: And, as this is a Mayoral appointment, this isn't a nomination, it's simply confirming an appointment from the Mayor.

Resolution No. R03-2025

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF KIMBERLY KRAFT AS A MEMBER OF THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE TERM ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 2026

Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R03-2025; Mr. Vanover seconded.

Mayor Hawkins: Sorry, just one more thing. I'd be remiss if I didn't say how much we appreciate Dr. Ketting's years of service. I believe he represented four decade's worth of time with regard to service to the City in that capacity, and so he will be sorely missed, but, he's going to use his time in doing other things, and he's more than put in his share for the Board of Health. We also appreciate all his time. Thank you.

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Mrs. Webster: Her mother was quite a nurse too.

Resolution No. R03-2025 passes with seven affirmative votes.

President Anderson: Next, we'll move on to Council appointments. We'll use the same process as we did at our last meeting, where, before the reading, we'll have the nominations. So, we'll do them one at a time so there is an opportunity to nominate, and then we will deal with inserting it into the blank, and then we'll read the actual position and vote. So, since the next item we have up is for Resolution No. R04-2025, which is an appointment to the Springdale Charter Revision Committee, I'm now opening the floor for nominations for this position.

Mr. Vanover: I'd like to bring forward Ms. Pamela Ramirez' name. She's a lifelong resident, has been involved at multiple levels of the City, her family, and actually extended family too. She drove a bus with Princeton for 22 years. She has been in Springdale for 66 years. She's coached girls softball, and, also, was active in adult sports.

President Anderson: The floor is still open for nominations for the Springdale Charter Revision Committee.

Mr. Jacobs: I'd like to nominate Mike Bender. He's a local resident. He's been in Springdale for 17 years. He started his own business, Executive Security and Technologies. He's got an Electrical Engineering Degree from Miami University. He's very active in the Community, especially with the nearby scout troop. He's been involved with them for years. He also coached basketball at the Rec. He's invested in the Community. He's got two kids going to Princeton City Schools, and I've spoken with Mr. Bender over the years, and he's expressed some interest in contributing more to the City.

President Anderson: The floor is still open for nominations.

Mrs. Webster: I don't have a nomination. I wanted to know what he said. I didn't understand his nomination; the name.

President Anderson: The nomination was for Mike Bender. The floor is still open for nominations. (No additional nominations) At this point I'm closing nominations for the open position for the Springdale Charter Revision Committee. Council, as I've said before, and Ms. Ramirez is in the audience, and Mr. Bender, who might be watching, any time we have multiple nominees for a position, just know that we appreciate that. Whichever one ends up with the position, it just means that Springdale has a lot of people that are invested and want to help, and regardless of how the vote goes, we appreciate both people being willing to serve. So, in order to fill the position, what we do is we've got two nominations; one for Pam Ramirez, and a second for Mike Bender. So what we'll do is we'll go down Council one at a time, so,

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President Anderson (continued): Ms. Browder will poll you one at a time, and you simply need to respond with either "Ramirez", or "Bender", and then, whoever has the most votes, is the name that will be inserted into the Charter Revision resolution. Any questions about the process that we're using? Ms. Browder, if you'd poll Council on the nominations for Ramirez or Bender.

Mr. Jacobs: Mike Bender

Mr. Vanover: Pam Ramirez

Mrs. Webster: Ramirez

Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup: Ramirez

Mr. Gleaves: Bender

Ms. McFarland: Mrs. Ramirez

President Anderson: Mike Bender; makes it closer. No offense, Ms. Ramirez. We do appreciate everyone that was put forward for that. With four votes for Pam Ramirez, she will be inserted into the resolution.

Resolution No. R04-2025

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING PAM RAMIREZ TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE CHARTER REVISION COMMITTEE FOR THE TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2029

Mr. Vanover made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R04-2025; Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded.

Resolution No. R04-2025 passes with seven affirmative votes.

President Anderson: Thank you Mrs. Ramirez for being willing to serve on the Charter Revision Committee. Your experience is appreciated.

Resolution No. R05-2025

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING _____ TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE TAX REVIEW BOARD FOR THE TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026

President Anderson: Next, we'll move on to Resolution No. R05-2025. Again, we'll start with nominations. At this point, I'll open the floor for nominations for members to serve on the Springdale Tax Review Board for the term ending December 31, 2026. The floor is now open for nominations. (None brought forth). Not seeing any, what that would mean is that we could go ahead and table this for our next meeting. We can do some homework and see if we can come back with another name. I'm not sure if

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President Anderson (continued): anyone reached out to Ms. Chapman who was serving in the position before. I can certainly do that before our next meeting and see if she's willing to serve again. But, we'll go ahead, I guess I'm looking for a motion to table this until our next meeting.

Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup: I'd like to make a motion to table Resolution No. R05-2025 until the next meeting please.

Mr. Vanover: Second.

Motion to table Resolution No. R05-2025 until the next meeting passes with seven affirmative votes.

Resolution No. R05-2025 will be on our agenda for the next meeting.

Executive Session – Employee Negotiations

Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup: I would like to make a motion to go into Executive Session according to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(4); preparing for, conducting, or reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment.

Mr. Vanover: Second.

Motion to go into Executive Session for Employee Negotiations passed with seven affirmative votes. Council departed chambers at 7:42 p.m. Council returned to chambers at 8:22 p.m.

Old Business	-	None
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New Business	-	None
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Meetings and Announcements

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

Mayor Hawkins: A reminder again that the 2025 Winter Pep Rally and Coach's Memorial Hall of Fame Induction will be this Friday, January 3rd at 6:30 p.m., in our main gym at the Rec Center. Thank you.

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

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Mr. Gleaves: The Board of Zoning Appeals is scheduled to meet January 28th at 7:00 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; An Ordinance Amending Section 153.252(F)(6)(c) of the Springdale Code of Ordinances Regulating the Husbandry of Fowl, Rabbits and Bees received four affirmative votes, failing, needing a super majority. Item II; Several Resolutions Either Confirming Mayoral Appointments and/or Council Appointments to Various Boards, Commissions, and Committees was addressed by A Resolution Confirming the Mayor's Appointment of Kimberly Kraft as a member of the City of Springdale Board of Health receiving seven affirmative votes. A Resolution Appointing Pamela Ramirez to serve as a member of the City of Springdale Charter Revision Committee receiving seven affirmative votes. We tabled Resolution No. R05-2025; seeking an appointment for the Tax Review Committee and that will be tabled until January 15th. Item III; An Ordinance Adopting the Annual Appropriation/Estimated Receipts for Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2025 was addressed by Ordinance No. 1-2025, passing with seven affirmative votes. Item IV; A Resolution Authorizing the Investment of Municipal Funds was addressed by Resolution No. R02-2025 passing with seven affirmative votes. Item V; a Resolution Requesting Advance Payment from the Hamilton County Auditor was addressed by Resolution No. R01-2025 passing with seven affirmative votes.

Legislation in Development

Mr. Jacobs: Item VI; An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to Enter Into a Business Incentive Grant Agreement with G5 Entertainment LLC; that was addressed by Ordinance No. 2-2025, which received a first reading, and will return on January 15th. Item VII; An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to Enter Into a Job Retention and Creation Incentive Program Agreement with Salas O'Brien, Inc. was addressed with Ordinance No. 4-2025, which received a first reading and will return on January 15th. Item Number VIII; An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to Enter Into a Job Retention and Creation Incentive Program Agreement with Mitchell's Salon & Day Spa, Inc. was addressed by Ordinance No. 3-2025. It received a first reading, and will also return on January 15th. Unless there's anything else coming from Administration.

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Adjournment

President Anderson: That's it for that. All we have left before is Item 15.

Ms. Sullivan-Wisecup: Move to adjourn.

President Anderson: Alright, thank you everyone. We're adjourned for the night.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Browder
Clerk of Council

Minutes Approved:

Jeffrey Anderson, President of Council

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