

# City of Springdale Council

February 18, 2026

President of Council Anderson called Council to order on February 18, 2026.

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

Ms. Browder took roll call. Councilmembers Anderson, Gleaves, Hall, Jacobs, McFarland, Thompson, and Webster were present.

The minutes of the February 4, 2026, meeting were considered. Mr. Jacobs made a motion to accept the minutes; Mr. Hall seconded. The minutes were approved with seven affirmative votes.

Presentation – Black History Month

Mr. Leo Foster

Mr. Gleaves: This is a presentation for Black History Month for one of our residents, Mr. Leo Foster. Mr. Leo Foster was born in Covington, Kentucky and graduated from Covington Holmes High School. Mr. Foster played baseball, basketball, and football, and ran track for Holmes High School. Mr. Foster was a starting shortstop on the Varsity Baseball team, earning All-State honors all four years of his high school career. He was All State in basketball for three years. He played football and ran track where he held a high jump record of six feet two and a half inches for 20 years. Mr. Foster started his professional baseball career in 1969. He was drafted by the Atlanta Braves where he was assigned to the Class A Greenwood South Carolina affiliate of the Western Carolina League. In 1970, Mr. Foster was called up to the major leagues and at that point he was the youngest player in the major leagues at 19 years old. Mr. Foster's major league career lasted 12 years. He played with notable players like Hank Aaron and former manager of the Cincinnati Reds, Dusty Baker. Mr. Foster was a roommate of Dusty Baker from 1969 until 1975. It ended when Dusty was traded to the Los Angeles Dodgers and Leo was traded to the New York Mets. Mr. Foster and his wife have been living in Springdale on Glensprings Drive for over 40 years. I'd like to thank Mr. Foster and his wife for their time and for being so gracious in sharing their stories with me, and now I have a chance to share them with you, so thank you very much.

President Anderson: Thank you, and I believe Mr. Foster was planning originally to attend, but there was a family emergency he had to attend to, otherwise he would be here. It's nice to recognize our own Springdale people in Black History Month, especially somebody who has such amazing experiences as being in the Major Leagues. That's really a great story.

Committee and Official Reports

Civil Service Commission

Mr. Coleman: Good evening, Council. Springdale Civil Service Commission did meet on February 5<sup>th</sup> in the Springdale Municipal Building. The Civil Service Commission members were in attendance, which included myself, Mr. Dunigan, and Mrs. McNear. Also present for the meeting was City Administrator Mr. Uhl, Assistant City Administrator

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Mr. Coleman (continued): Ms. Morgan, Fire Chief Mr. Stanley, Police Chief Mr. Butler, and the Human Resources Administrator Ms. Edwards. Following up with the disposition of the minutes, there were several reports that were highlighted and I won't go into any of that detail, but more importantly on the New Business side, the Firefighter II Paramedic hiring timeline. And this hiring timeline was presented due to the reclassification of a full-time firefighter. Mrs. McNear made a motion to approve the timeline and that was seconded by Mr. Dunigan. That motion passed 3-0.

In addition to the timeline a request was also presented to waive the examination and agility test that allows for lateral entry and for current Springdale part-time firefighters to apply. What is significant about this is that with this lateral entry and with the opportunity of the Springdale parttime firefighters, we are fairly certain that those individuals could in fact pass the examination and therefore were certainly able to do the agility test as well. So, Mrs. McNear made a motion to approve the waiver and that was seconded by Mr. Dunigan and that motion passed 3-0.

And we moved right along after discussion with Police Chief Mr. Butler and there was a hiring timeline that was presented due to a future retirement in the Police Department. Mrs. McNear made a motion to approve that timeline and that was seconded by Mr. Dunigan, and that motion passed 3-0. In addition to the timeline, a request was presented to waive the minimum service requirement of three years served in the Springdale Police Department to a minimum requirement of one year service in the Springdale Police Department retaining the minimum service requirement of four years as a full-time Police Officer. This waiver request increases the number of candidates eligible to apply and what is significant about this is the same rules that also affect the firefighters, which is the lateral hiring as well as those individuals who can come in with significant service and to make sure that we have a significant candidate pool to promote from within. We thought it was necessary to retain the minimum service requirement of four years as a full-time Police Officer and to also make sure that one year of service in the Springdale Police Department was also maintained.

A request was also presented to waive the efficiency rating and credit for the Patrol Sergeant Promotional Hiring Process. This again is reflective of the changes that are made currently in today's market that again allows for lateral hiring, lateral movement, and lateral transfers. So, it was felt that it wasn't necessary to provide additional rating and credit for those individuals who were coming in with that type of experience, and so it becomes a better opportunity to evaluate individuals based on their service, based on their skills. Mrs. McNear made a motion to approve both waivers as presented and that was seconded by Mr. Dunigan and that motion passed also 3-0. That concludes my report.

Finance Committee

Mrs. Webster: General Fund Activity through January 31, 2026. General Fund beginning balance January 1, 2026, \$6,164,941.00. Revenues for January \$924,168.00. Expenditures for January \$4,861,709.00. General Fund Ending Balance January 31, 2026, \$2,227,400.00. That concludes my report. Thank you.

Planning Commission

Ms. McFarland - No report

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Board of Zoning Appeals

Mr. Hall: The Board of Zoning Appeals held their meeting January 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. The meeting commenced at that time. The roll call was made. All members were in attendance along with the Building Official. The report from Council that Mr. Gleaves presented was a report getting the Board of Zoning Appeals up to date from Council. It was very, very comprehensive. We appreciate it. There was also a report from Mr. Joe Ramirez on the Planning Commission which I believe we'll deal with tonight. This was a matter that came before the Board of Zoning Appeals for QuikTrip variance at 55 Progress Place. It was application number 20260010. The application was to allow two colors for fuel sales being that fuel station one for diesel fuel and one for gasoline. After consideration from the Board, the Board decided it was common practice to have different colors for each type of fuel in the City. It did not present a special privilege by approving that, and the property would not have depleted in value. It would have only increased the value with the upgrade of the sales. With that being said, there was a motion and was passed unanimously to approve it so they will have the two colors for diesel fuel and for gasoline and Mr. Gleaves did make a comment that he's going to approach the Code Revisions to have that added to the Code Revisions so that it would be standard operating procedure at that time. If there's any questions or comments, I'll be glad to answer them.

President Anderson: I don't see any but thank you for taking that. I just made a note on my sheet to make sure we talk about that with Revision Code to see if we need to update the Code, so thank you for being proactive on that.

Board of Health

Ms. McFarland

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No report

O-K-I

President Anderson: The OKI Board did meet on February 12<sup>th</sup>. The new members had their training before the meeting, and we did receive a few updates. One of them was on the House Bill that you might have seen some information on. I think I talked about it I think two meetings ago where there's some changes being proposed by the State level on how MPO's (Metropolitan Planning Organization) are managed. There was some concern that that might affect how OKI works in general, seeing how it is a very effective board. They did have an opportunity to speak with those sponsors of the bill, and after some education and lobbying, it seems like those changes that we were concerned about won't be moving forward, but it's still possible. So, we'll continue to watch that as it goes through the State House. There was also an update on a lawsuit on the Brent Spence Bridge that was brought forward for ecological concerns and reports if anyone is interested in what the state of that is, it's a little bit far from Springdale, but if you would like details on it, I'm happy to talk with you anytime about it. But, other than reviewing our transportation safety targets for the year, that's all that we did, so, unless there's any questions, we'll move on.

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### Mayor's Report

Mayor Hawkins: Just a few things to update. Coming up we have the Smoothie King Ribbon Cutting, again, it will be on February 27<sup>th</sup> in the morning. It is open, so you can go and patronize that establishment. We have the SYB Cinema Horseraces coming up on Saturday, the 28<sup>th</sup> of February at 7:00 p.m. at the Rec Center in the old gym. It's always a good time for folks to come out and enjoy that. And, we'll be having the State of the City Address on March 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Rec Center in the old gym. And as well, folks are welcome to come out and hear from our different Department Heads on things that are going on and expected to happen in 2026. As well, I spoke with Mr. Anderson. Plan to have a Town Hall Meeting at some point, probably around September, and as that comes up, we'll give some more information. That concludes my report.

President Anderson: For just reference and planning that people have scheduling things that they want to make either Lawrence or myself, Mayor Hawkins or myself aware of, please let us know for that timeframe. In the past we've had it in the week in between our first and second session in September, so that's probably what we'll target, so take a look at your calendars and then also it's possible it could be the week before the first meeting in September, so the end of August, so if you have concerns about those dates, let us know, but that's probably what we're going to be landing on.

### Administrator's Report

Mr. Uhl: Just two quick personnel updates that I want to bring before Council this evening. I'm happy to report that Ms. Kelly Flanigan will be joining our staff as our Finance Officer/Tax Commissioner on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Kelly comes to us from Miami Township/Clermont County where she is a wealth of knowledge and has both municipal tax and a plethora of finance experience as well as some time spent with the Ohio Auditor. Secondly, just want to announce and recognize Sergeant Bill Zeek will be retiring from the Springdale Police Department. He has over 21 years with our Department, and over 25 years in the pension system. He'll be retiring at the end of this month, but we do appreciate Sergeant Zeek and all his accomplishments with our City and everything that he's done for us and we're hoping we can maintain him as a reserve officer in the future. I believe Ms. Morgan has a few items.

Ms. Morgan: As we approach tax filing season, or as we're entering tax filing season I suppose, a reminder that the City has partnered with the Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) to offer online filings and payments. This opportunity also affords taxpayers the ability to create a MyAccount which will give them the opportunity in addition to filing and making payments also the ability to upload documents, view all of their prior transaction history, send secure messages to discuss their specific cases, and also update their profile information. For those individuals that may still prefer that in-person service, please know our Tax Department is still open for business. Please come in to have assistance with completing your filings, making payments, and answering account questions. Our staff is ready and available. Thank you.

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President Anderson: Thank you, and to be clear, we have not changed our tax policy as a result of moving to RITA. It's just how it can be filed in Tax, so, if your numbers seem like they've changed from year to year, it's not related to RITA.

Ms. Morgan: Correct.

Law Director's Report

Mr. Braun -

No report

Engineer's Report

Mr. Riggs: Just two quick updates. We have the East Kemper Improvements Phase 1 Project. That's out to bid now. It was advertised on February 10<sup>th</sup> and the bid opening is going to be held here on Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. The Northland/Kemper Intersection Realignment and Kemper Road Shared Use Path Project; Stage 1 plans are going to be submitted to ODOT on March 13<sup>th</sup>, and that's all I had.

Zoning Code Revision Committee

Mr. Gleaves: The Zoning Code Revision Committee convened here in the Conference Room February 17<sup>th</sup> with participation from City Staff, representatives from McBride Dale Clarion, and members of the Board of Zoning Appeals, and Planning Commission. The Committee discussed recommendations to certain zoning classifications that would enhance redevelopment opportunities as well as modifications to the land use table. That's all I have unless there's any questions.

America 250 Special Committee

Mrs. Webster: The 250 Committee met on February 4<sup>th</sup> and we discussed several ways how we're going to celebrate it in Springdale. One is we're going to purchase flags, American flags, "250" flags to be flown at all the City buildings along with the other one. Another one will be we're going to have a mural located on the grounds of the City. We're also trying to get something together with the cemetery and the Veterans and I'm going to turn that over to Mr. Cemetery, Mr. Jacobs.

Mr. Jacobs: I have been trying to work through, there's an Ohio Cemetery Project where there's a database of cemeteries in the State that are the final resting place of Revolutionary War Veterans and the St. Mary Cemetery here in town is the resting place of nine of those veterans and we're not currently on the registry, so we're working through that process. It's going to be a bit of extra work than I first thought. We have to actually map those particular markers on the ground, and then send that report in. But that process is in the works and so that's one piece of one of the celebrations. We're going to be doing some of our recognition from the cemetery, including flying those special flags that Councilmember Webster brought up. Also, if I could mention the entire celebration, there's the America 250, there's Ohio 250, and then there's also Springdale 250 and that's what we're engaged in. But, in general, just to tell the public that there are monthly themes to recognize various progress throughout the last 250 years. In Ohio, as a history teacher, I just have to mention there's some things that Ohio can brag about; cash registers were invented in Ohio, first baseball team, some of you may be aware of that, the pop top can was invented Ohio. The first hot dogs were

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Mr. Jacobs (continued): made and sold in the State of Ohio. So that's just some of the innovative things. Ohio, in terms of commerce and industry; Procter and Gamble started in Ohio, Wendy's began in Ohio, Abercrombie & Fitch, Goodyear Tire, and Victoria's Secret all began in the State of Ohio, so those are just some fun things to mark in terms of our industry, and in terms of innovation, it's hard to beat the State of Ohio's aviation history. Everything from the Wright Brothers all the way up to Neil Armstrong born right here in Ohio, and then just as a final mention in terms of the City itself, we have seen several businesses start in the City and that's some of our innovation. If you go back in time, there's a company called CinCom, which was short for Cincinnati Computer, and these were a couple of employees from IBM that broke away and their idea was to sell software separately as opposed to just hardware and that is an innovative idea. They're still doing business. Those are some of the things. And also, to bring it up to today, members of Council would be aware that we recently welcomed Enable Injections into the City. They're a very, very innovative industry in terms of delivering injections through a new innovative process and that's happening right here in our town. So, I just wanted to mention some of those things to mark the month of Industry and Innovation. And that's all I have. Thank you.

Mrs. Webster: We're also looking forward to doing something with the elementary schools, like a costume party of people dressed up like George Washington, and so forth, but we have to look into that yet. Our next meeting will be March 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. Thank you.

### Communications

Ms. Browder: We do have a transfer liquor permit request coming from Annette Todd LLC to 22 Ultra Lounge located at 340 Glensprings Drive. This is for permit classes D1, D2, and D3. That would give you beer, wine, and pre-packaged low proof sales on the premise until 1:00 a.m., and on premise only the high proof spirits until 1:00 a.m. There is no input from the Police Department opposing this permit so we can take care of that for you if you'd like.

Mr. Hall: Has there been any communications with Chief Butler as far as input concerning this liquor permit?

Mr. Uhl: Yes. Chief Butler actually met with the property owner, or the person that the liquor permit will be transferred to and from and has expressed his desires for security and whatnot, so they've had some extensive meetings here in the past couple of weeks, but he has no opposition to this current transfer.

Mr. Hall: Okay. Thank you.

President Anderson: Council, you may recall from past liquor permit transfers, we don't actually take a vote on them, but if anyone has an objection this is your opportunity to lodge that. Otherwise, we'll simply file it with the State Liquor Board. I don't see any, so we can go ahead and file it. Thank you, Ms. Browder.

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### Communications from the Audience

Mrs. Vanover: Donna Vanover, 11982 Tavel Court.

President Anderson: I'm sorry, Mrs. Vanover. Is that mic on because I'm having a hard time hearing it. Is it on? Okay. Thank you. Go ahead.

Mrs. Vanover: I just wanted to say that we appreciated the City Maintenance Department of Springdale during the several snows that we've had. They did an awesome job. They cleared as much as they could. I was a little disappointed with the number of cars that were left on the street during the snow emergency without any tickets. One day after it was safe to go out, I went up the hill on Ledro Street and there were two cars parked in the "No Parking" zone that were plowed into those spots, so obviously they had been there for a while. I think the Maintenance Department could have had more ease of doing their job if those cars had been off the street as was stated on Facebook and different things. But they did a great job wherever they could. Thank you.

Mayor Hawkins: Thank you, Mrs. Vanover, we appreciate first off, the kudos for Kevin and the crew. Those guys did an amazing job. We are looking at some other creative ways to see what we can do in terms of when there's snow emergencies to try to manage folks being able to get off the roads, find ways to get information out to them sooner if we can in other places for folks where parking is at a premium, where they may be able to go park someplace else. So, we're trying to explore some other options. But we appreciate the comments.

Ms. Merritt: I live at 848 Castro Lane. I've been here almost 33 years.

President Anderson: Would you mind sharing your name so we can have it in the minutes.

Ms. Merritt: Tammy Merritt. On my street the one side has not been cleaned in almost three years because the cars never move. They rotate from the POV to the roofing trucks. The blacktop is all ate up; its coming through. I've talked to Chris Miller marking that and he said, "Talk to the Police about moving the cars". People burn trash around my house in the back yard every other day, or once a week. I have breathing issues so I can't even come out of my house. The Police, they call 911, they come, and they're like, "Where's the fire?" I said, "Pick a house." So, that's an issue. I don't know how to make anybody accountable. Parking in yards. It's a daily thing. Pouring motor oil and cooking oil down the storm drains. I've called. They've come out, saw it sitting there, and they're like, "I don't know what to do." They just replaced the sewer drain this week; yesterday and today. Springdale replaced it like two months ago, the roofing trucks pull up on the curb, they broke it, and the people that installed the ones today said the same thing is going to happen as soon as the truck pulls up on it, so, why are we wasting money when we're not fixing what's causing the issue. And is there a process for this stuff? Is there a procedure or a way to make somebody accountable?

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Ms. Merritt (continued): Because it's been going on for a year or so, and I keep calling and I'm just the lady that is constantly complaining because my neighbors are like, "I don't want to call. You call again." And I cleaned up when they sealed the street from my house to the corner, which is two houses, I did either side of the street. I got two handfuls of nails. I went over to the neighbor. They don't speak English, but one of their workers does and I showed them and they're like, "They fall out of the trucks." The morning, I go over there and there is a handful of nails. And yes. We won't even get into they get out of their cars, eat something and throw the trash on the ground. I mean it's constant, there's dead animals under the vehicles that eventually wash down to the sewer, and I keep picking them up. That just freaks me out. Other than me calling Springdale Police every day and making a log, which I can do, do a spreadsheet, what can we do? I mean, it's starting to look like Over the Rhine in Springdale.

President Anderson: Where is this? What street?

Ms. Merritt: Castro Lane. I've got five houses that I constantly am being told, "Yeah, we're aware of it." And I'm like, "It's been a few years." And I don't even talk to my neighbors much. The ones on either side of me they have been there 20 to 25 years. We say, "Hi", unless somebody's sick, we don't interact. As long as everybody's leaving me alone. I've loaned out my yard tools; I've given people garbage cans to try to help and they're backing up in my yard busting my drainage pipe. I was told I can't put stop strips there. I don't know what I can stack there between the sidewalk and the curb, but I mean, you guys planted trees I didn't ask for, so if I can plant thorn bushes or something, or stack up cinder blocks. If I've got to get an attorney, they need to quit backing up in my yard. I've got my driveway blocked and they back up between the two trees; not just the trucks, but the personal vehicles. You only have to go up a little bit, and you can make a U-turn if the Police aren't looking. I mean, why try to back up right there, but it's a daily constant thing starting at 5:30 in the morning to the evening. And I've stood out there and they'll still back up. It's way out of control if I got to call Springdale and the Fire Department 24/7, I'm going to start doing it.

Mayor Hawkins: You've got your contact information there. Did you leave your phone number?

Ms. Merritt: I didn't, but I will.

Mayor Hawkins: Do me a favor, leave your phone number there. We'll have the appropriate departments look into those things.

Ms. Merritt: I have pictures, I have documentation. I've talked to each neighbor.

Mayor Hawkins: Still want you to. It's important that you're contacting the City when things come up, and some things may be in process, some things may not be known, but please leave your contact information so we can follow up and get all that data. Thank you for coming out.

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Mr. Jacobs: This is a question for Administration. If residents have complaints, I urge them to deliver their complaints, however it is going to be through phone, or email. My question is, is email a more strategic approach for a resident because the resident wants accountability, and an email leaves a record of how many times that resident has complained. And, again, if phone calls are your best method.

Ms. Merritt: No, I'll do both.

President Anderson: Ma'am, will you come back up to the mic? We just need to make sure we have a record.

Mr. Jacobs: That was my fault. I was starting a conversation with you.

Ms. Merritt: My job is for 40 years I have resolved process problems for million-dollar corporations around the world. I'm going to put my work stuff to practice at home, which I don't like to do. You guys will learn to hate me until this is resolved, but I don't care. I want a result.

Mr. Jacobs: I think resident complaints are the best way...

Ms. Merritt: I am not moving.

Mr. Jacobs: I don't want you to feel bad for complaining, because that's how you can make progress, but I was hoping that a paper trail...

Ms. Merritt: I have pictures going back six months to a year, and that was just the highlights. There's so much going on.

Mr. Jacobs: I appreciate you coming out and I don't want you to feel bad for a second for bringing up complaints. That's not a bad thing; that's a good thing. Thank you.

Ms. Merritt: I know, but I'm not going to keep calling the Police constantly because they have serious things to fix.

President Anderson: Thank you for coming out. I think it sounds like we've got an approach the Administration will reach out.

Ms. Tudor: Hello. I'm Julie Tudor. I'm here on behalf of Springdale Offering Support. Wanted to make the City and the Audience aware of the two wonderful scholarships that we're offering this year to Springdale Seniors. One is for \$4,000 and one is for \$2,000. The application is available on the City's website, or they can contact me and I can email it to them. My phone number is 513-505-5707, and the only criterion is you have to be a Springdale Senior, grade point average of 3.0 or above, and you have to write a 1,000-word essay. And then you're eligible if you're going to college, or even a trade school. So, I encourage any Springdale senior or their parent that might be

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Ms. Tudor (continued): watching, to get on them and get that application in. The deadline is March 31<sup>st</sup>. Thank you very much.

Mr. Vanover: I'm the other half. Tom Vanover, 11982 Tavel Court. I'm disappointed in the absence of an item on the agenda; the invocation. Section 30.05 of the Council rules, Subsection D gives a suggested agenda, and it says, "With consent of the majority of the members of Council or by general assent, the order in which the items are disposed of may be changed." Was there a vote? I didn't see any record, and I find it also disheartening that today is Ash Wednesday, as Mr. Braun can witness, the start of Lent season, we're in the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this country which was formed under Judeo-Christian values, and we're tossing the invocation out. The invocation is a prayer that is inviting God's spirit to be present in this room. The United States Congress has non-stop since its inception in 1789 began each session with an invocation. The City of Springdale was incorporated as a Village in 1959 and then again as a City in 1971. That tradition continued until today. I find that appalling. I surveyed communities around the area, Fairfield, Sharonville, Reading, Glendale, Evendale, Forest Park, Mt. Healthy, Hamilton, Milford, and Miami Township. Out of those ten, there were two that didn't do an invocation, Evendale and Forest Park. Milford didn't specifically do an invocation, but they did a moment of silence, personal prayer. If you don't want to do the hard work and do an Invocation, you can buy books of prayers. I would reference you to Matthew Chapter Six verses 9-13 where it's the Lord's Prayer. Growing up in school I said it in school; we said it before every sports contest. I'm sure Mr. Hawkins did the same. It's not that hard. It doesn't have to be big. It doesn't have to be glamorous, but I think if you don't want to do it, there are ten churches within the City limits. I'm sure the Pastors or Associate Pastors would be more than happy to come in and offer a prayer. And, if you expand that just a few sections over, you'll probably pick up another half of dozen or so churches. But this body biblically is ordained by God. Your power is placed upon your shoulders to uphold that. So, if that's your choice, I feel sorry for you. I don't think that's everybody in this room. You can smirk all you want, Mr. Anderson, but I find that appalling.

President Anderson: Just so we have the record straight, Springdale has never had in Invocation at half of its meetings since its inception. It's only been done in the second meeting for some time. Prior to the agenda being changed at the beginning of this session, not the session, but this Council embodiment, I did have an occasion to speak with Mr. Braun to review the Charter and the requirements for the agenda. It was out of respect for everybody's views on the Invocation in our agenda as a whole that I let Council know and gave them an opportunity to give feedback on the change that the Invocation would be available to any member at any point in time, for any meeting, they simply needed to add it to the agenda, just like they would any other agenda item which is in line with our Charter and the practices of the City. The claim that there's some agenda or attack on religion is just false. Any member up here can add or ask for the Invocation and perform it at any point. If you'd like to see the email, you can request the records. There were communications that went out that show that that was done. So, I'm a little disheartened of the accusations without finding

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President Anderson (continued): information because for years I was the one doing the Invocations and it was after receiving feedback from other Councilmembers and members of the public that my invocations weren't always religious enough or formed the right way that I felt it was important to make sure that Council as a whole understood their opportunity and responsibility in that space. So, what you saw tonight was simply a fact that nobody up here felt it was important to add for tonight's meeting. That doesn't mean or make a statement on any specific religion. It just wasn't on the agenda today because no one brought it forward. So, I'm sorry that you feel that there was some sort of attack or affront. That was never the intention.

Mrs. Webster: Thank you, Mr. Vanover, for all the research you have done on this matter. And I just have one question. What will be the next thing you do away with? The Pledge of Allegiance? Thank you.

President Anderson: First off, I'll remind everyone on Council and in the audience that we do have a civility rule. Accusations are opposed to open end decorum. I will say, again, that I did not get away with any agenda item. And anybody on Council has the opportunity to add any item to the agenda. In fact, it was two years ago now that we made an update as a Council body as a whole to make sure that the way the agenda was being created was an open fashion. Prior to two years ago when we made the updates to Rule 30, there were more restrictions on who could add things to our agenda as a whole. And it was in that review that Mayor Hawkins and I updated that section of Council, and Council then affirmed those rules, including how the agenda is created and Council determines those rules. So, I find it somewhat offensive that you would imply that I made a unilateral decision because that simply isn't the case.

Mr. Jacobs: This is directed towards Mr. Vanover. Obviously, you come at this with very strong passions. You were up on the dais when the decision was made to leave it open to members as opposed to a specific agenda item. And, since that time, the appalling nature of your comments to me sounds like somebody who is reacting to the banning of prayers. Prayers have not been banned. You could make a prayer from that podium at each meeting if you chose to. No one could stop you. If you feel that strongly, I encourage you to do so. But what we have as a policy right now is that members of Council are free to pray as they see fit. I understand you're disappointed that no one takes up that offer, but your reaction seems to be that we have banned prayer. Is that your understanding that we don't allow prayer? Or just that we simply don't have any volunteers?

Mr. Vanover: My accusation is a tradition that has been going on and you're correct Mr. Anderson it was the second meeting. It wasn't every meeting. If I said that, I misspoke. But a tradition that had been carried on since the inception of the village and incorporation of 1957 or '59, I'm sorry, and continued once the City was incorporated in 1971. How hard is it to, Mayor Webster when he was Clerk of Council/Finance Director, Kathy McNear, Ed Knox, that was continued on. I don't understand why it can't be continued. If you want to change the rules and reach out.

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Mr. Vanover (continued): Like I said, there are ten churches within the City limits. You could reach out to any of them if you don't want to do it. I don't have a problem. You could reach out to me.

Mr. Jacobs: I did extend that offer just a few minutes ago. If I may interrupt, again, nobody is preventing any of these things from happening, Mr. Vanover. It's a choice. Like, what I seem to be hearing is you want the body to pray. For me, prayer is something that should come from the inside, not from compulsion from some other outside source. And, if no members of Council want to pray, I'm not sure I can understand why you find that frustrating. Again, if it is, you may say a prayer right now. You could be here for every meeting. I don't see it as a lack of effort on anyone's part. That seems to be the tone of your message is that it's too hard, and so we could go to other sources. It's just that none of us have decided to use that ability that was granted to us before the last election. This isn't a brand-new thing today. You used the word "today" several times. This is not a new policy. It was here when you sat up here as well. Now I understand you're disappointed with it, but again, nobody is preventing prayer, Mr. Vanover. No one.

President Anderson: We can stop for a minute if you want to respond.

Mr. Vanover: Well, and my thoughts again are it was done not in a public forum. It was not held in the open meeting...

President Anderson: Nor is it required, just to understand because you've said that two or three times now. That's not a requirement of our rules.

Mr. Vanover: No, but the rule states that if you make a change to the agenda, it is a suggestion.

President Anderson: That is true. It's a suggested agenda.

Mr. Vanover: It has to be approved by Council.

President Anderson: That's right. But there wasn't a change. So, the advice we got from counsel was the suggested agenda is a suggestion. We didn't change it, and the way the agenda is formed was updated I believe while you were on Council and include that. So, we're not going to get into a debate about that. I can tell you that I did consult with Council before we made any sort of change in how the agenda was being created in order to make it more inclusive to everyone on the body. So, just know that that shouldn't be a concern. There's a reason I say that. You're welcome to read the Charter how you like, but I'm just letting you know since you didn't ask ahead of time if this was done, I'm letting you know that I did consult with Council before anything was done. So, you can rest easy in that, but if you want to adjudicate that, you're welcome to do that however you like.

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Mrs. Webster: Nobody called me about taking that off the agenda. So, who did it? You said that it as approved by Council. You did that on your own, correct? Who did it?

President Anderson: So, if you review your email, you'll see. Review your email is what I'll tell you.

Mrs. Webster: You know you're messing with things up here that have been part of this City for, well, since 1959. Now why do you have to take that off of the agenda?

President Anderson: Mrs. Webster, again, I'll caution you about our civility rule. I did not take it off of our agenda. Our agenda is formed every meeting, and I'd encourage you to review your email that described the process and the Charter that describes the process for how the agenda is formed. We're going to move on.

Mrs. Webster: No, you're not going to move on. I'm going to continue to speak.

President Anderson: Excuse me. Mrs. Webster, we have a civility rule under Section 35...

Mrs. Webster: You do this every time you're in the wrong and somebody calls you out. I'm not going to put up with this Mr. Anderson. You can bang that gavel until the end of time.

President Anderson: This is your second warning to please limit the outburst or you'll be removed from the meeting.

Mrs. Webster: This is wrong. You took that item off the agenda. What are you going to do?

President Anderson: At this point, I'm asking that you be removed from the meeting as you're unable to maintain decorum.

President Anderson: You're welcome to watch the meeting.

Mrs. Webster: Mr. Braun?

Mrs. Webster: Mr. Braun?

President Anderson: Officer, if you'd please escort Mrs. Webster out to the lobby.

Mrs. Webster: What are you going to do with me? Mr. Braun? (there was discussion off mic regarding procedure). This will not end Mr. Anderson. Not end. You do this...when I ran for election...

President Anderson: Mrs. Webster.

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Mrs. Webster: You are not going....

President Anderson: Please.

Mrs. Webster: to do it twice when there are things that I want to say.

President Anderson: No.

Mrs. Webster: When I ran for election...

President Anderson: Officer, please escort Mrs. Webster out of the building.

Mrs. Webster: I ran to try to keep things the same way they were in this City...

President Anderson: Officer...

Mrs. Webster: And you....

President Anderson: Officer, please.

Mrs. Webster: You are the one...

President Anderson: This is disruptive...

Mrs. Webster: that changes everything. It won't change anything.

Officer discusses situation with Mrs. Webster.

President Anderson: Please. Mrs. Webster I'm asking you...You are being removed from the meeting. If you're able to calm down and come back in and follow decorum, I'll welcome you back in, but at this point I'm asking you to leave. You're being removed from the meeting.

Mrs. Webster: And what am I going to do?

President Anderson: You're being disruptive. Officer, please. We need to continue the business of this City.

Mrs. Webster: Am I allowed to take my stuff?

Mr. Braun: You need to explain to her that if she...

Mrs. Webster: I'm not going.

Mr. Braun: If she wants to come in, she can come back.

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President Anderson: Mrs. Webster, I am advising you that after you leave the room, if you're able to return to a state of decorum and follow the rules, you can return to the dais. But, at this point you seem to be unable to do that, and I'm having you removed from the meeting under my authority as the presiding officer.

Mrs. Webster: Mr. Braun, is he allowed to do this?

Mr. Braun: So, Council rules do provide that, here, I'll read it to you if you would like. It specifically states that any person determined by the President of Council to be violating this rule or engaging in conduct which interferes with the meeting or obstructs the meeting may be ordered to cease engaging in the offending conduct and if they continue, may be removed from the meeting by the President of Council. So, I think that's what Mr. Anderson has indicated that you need to leave and if you're going to stop interfering and follow the rules, then you can return. Is that correct?

Mrs. Webster: Don't you think that's a little dictatorial? I am a Councilperson...

President Anderson: We're not having...

Mrs. Webster: duly elected...

President Anderson: We're not having a debate on the rules Mrs. Webster.

Mrs. Webster: And all I wanted to do is try to...

President Anderson: Officer.

Mrs. Webster: Find out why he keeps changing things. (Discussion with the officer continued) (Mrs. Webster then addresses the audience) Give me the number of newspaper or radio station, or tv station...

Mr. Braun left the dais to speak with Mrs. Webster.

President Anderson: For the record, Mrs. Webster has left the room and I have asked Mr. Braun to accompany her to go out there and answer any questions she might have and then if when she's ready to come back, she's certainly willing and able to do that, if she can maintain decorum and follow the rules of Council that we've agreed to.

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## Ordinances and Resolutions

### Ordinance No. 09-2026 (Second Reading)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF STREET AND OTHER PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE WAWA DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Gleaves made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 09-2026; Ms. McFarland seconded.

Mrs. Webster returned to the dais.

Ordinance No. 09-2026 passes with six affirmative votes. (Mrs. Webster was not present in the chamber at the time of the vote)

### Ordinance No. 10-2026 (Second Reading and Public Hearing)

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A ZONE CHANGE FOR THE REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 11550 CENTURY BOULEVARD IN THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE

President Anderson: This is a second reading and there will be a public hearing. As in the past Council, we will do the second reading. Before we move or take any action on it, we will open the Public Hearing, complete that, and then we'll move on to our decision to move forward.

President Anderson: Council, this was the second reading of Ordinance No. 10-2026. Before I open the floor for motions, we do have a public hearing attached to this. So, at this point I'm going to open the floor for Public Hearing related to Ordinance No. 10-2026. If anyone would like to speak for or against this, this is your opportunity. Simply come forward to the podium, state your name and address and you may speak on this ordinance. At this point, the floor is now open. (No one came forward) I am closing the Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 10-2026. Council, we have had two readings and having the public hearing, we can now act on Ordinance No. 10-2026.

Mr. Hall made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 10-2026; Ms. McFarland seconded.

Ordinance No. 10-2026 passes with seven affirmative votes.

President Anderson: Just for the record, we will note that Mrs. Webster has returned to the dais in advance of the vote.

## Executive Session – Economic Development

Ms. McFarland: I make a motion to move to Executive Session under Article II(D)(1) of the Springdale Charter to discuss Economic Development issues.

Mr. Jacobs: Second.

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Motion to go into Executive Session under Article II(D)(1) of the Springdale Charter to discuss Economic Development issues passes with seven affirmative votes.

Council departed chambers at 7:56 p.m. Council returned to chambers at 8:15 p.m.

Old Business - None

New Business - None

Meetings and Announcements

Ms. Morgan: The next Civil Service Commission meeting will be held on March 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Gleaves: The Board of Zoning Appeals that was scheduled has been postponed due to no applications. The Zoning Code and Revision Committee will be meeting March 9<sup>th</sup>. That's all I have.

Communications from the Audience

Mr. Vanover: Tom Vanover, 11982 Tavel Court. Back on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, I was standing in this young lady's front yard when I witnessed part of what she was talking about. I've got a phone right here of the truck coming in, unloaded and pulled into the front yard. It's 867 Castro. This afternoon we walked and an issue about them parking in the yard and I get we can't do anything unless we catch them at it, but there's mud on the sidewalks from where they come in and go. Now, it doesn't take a genius to figure out what they're doing. Why can't we go up and hang a door hanger and say, "According to Springdale Regulation....., you cannot park in the yard". We're not citing them to court; we're not doing anything. It's just a friendly reminder that we have an ordinance that says you can't do this. There's a car sitting on Ledro that was there before the snowstorm that still hasn't moved and it has blocks behind the tires. It's got Florida tags on it. This is the stuff I've been preaching for a long time. You sat in meetings with me. We talked about this stuff. So, it's not new, it's frustrating. The garbage that is thrown out. It's appalling. It's truly appalling. It's beginning to look like the other side in Sharonville. I hate to say that, and my house is paid for. I'm not moving. As a matter of fact, I've just made a substantial reinvestment in it, so, they'll carry me out. But this is your district (address Ms. Thompson), take a walk, call me sometime. I'll walk around the block with you. Thanks.

Ms. McFarland: Thank you, Mr. Vanover. I don't discount anything because my family lives over there and I see it all the time. But I've noticed lately this is not a Heritage Hill side of the tracks thing, it is taking over on this side as well. So, I have actually had several residents reach out in the last few weeks. I don't know if it's because of the snow or whatever, so I'm kind of doing my own research over on this side. So, there's definitely

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Ms. McFarland (continued): issues. I'm aware. I think everybody is aware, it's just a matter of how to figure out the right thing to do to figure it out.

Mr. Hall: I think it was outlined earlier to get a hold of Administrator Uhl, he would have a staff meeting with the Police Department. The Police Department will be the enforcement agency on this, and if you've got cars parked in overtime, the appropriate measure would be to mark the tire and issue a warning ticket on it, and then it would escalate up to a citation, and then escalate that the vehicle is towed. Is that correct sir?

President Anderson: I'm sorry, Mr. Uhl did you want to respond to that?

Mr. Uhl: There have been a couple of modifications to State law that prohibit marking anything, touching the vehicle in any fashion, but I do know a lot of those complaints have come in. I know we've talked about a lot of them as well. Both our Building Inspectors have addressed a lot of these issues. Unfortunately, a lot of them don't work at the speed of, we're looking for compliance, not necessarily penalty, so we're trying to work with some of those folks, but our Police Department is over there as well for parking issues and whatever else, and the one vehicle with Florida tags I know they went over. It should have a sticker on it I believe, or a warning of some sort that they made contact with somebody, but I do know that they went over the day that he reported that in to me, so, but, yes, our Building Department is on it, and our Police Department they obviously, we'll make sure that they're aware of some of these issues. As the weather gets warmer, and the snow has melted, I know there will be more things that come about be that through garbage or whatever else. So, we'll ensure that our Police and Building Departments are on the lookout for all of these issues as they kind of come out of the winter season.

Mr. Hall: Based on the complaints in this evening, you'll make that a priority with the appropriate agencies to take enforcement efforts?

Mr. Uhl: Yes, we've been ongoing. Every other month we meet as a team also to discuss various nuisances, so these things come up quite a bit, and this is an ongoing process.

Mr. Hall: Okay. Thank you very much.

Ms. Merritt: Well, this isn't what I was going to say, but you say it's an ongoing process. It's been getting steadily worse for a year and a half. There's no improvement. So, your process isn't working. And can you outline what your process is so that there can be some accountability because it's not working.

President Anderson: I'm sorry, did you have another point?

Ms. Merritt: Yes. Well, go ahead.

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President Anderson: Go ahead. I was just going to close out that we've covered the ground on the feedback that's been given, and the City has an action there. It sounds like we've got follow up so I'm not sure what else we'd be able to determine.

Ms. Merritt: Okay, but that's not my question.

President Anderson: That's fine, I just want to let you know I'm not taking your time for that. I'm just letting you know you're welcome to talk.

Ms. Merritt: It's okay. You can take it. I don't care. I can talk fast. Okay, I called six months to a year ago and said, and I don't know what the number was, Amy knows, I don't know it, the subdivision is predominantly Hispanic to a certain degree. I equally dislike everybody. If you don't follow the rules, I'm going to say something. I don't care who you are. If you don't bother me on my property, I won't bother you. But, if you do something that infringes on my living area, I have a problem. So, I tried to go over and cordially talk to them and offer tools, garbage cans, garbage bags. But my thing is we've changed the website to Spanish. They were going to put a QR Code I was told with the Spanish thing around it saying where to go on the quarterly fliers. And then I keep getting told there's not enough money. \$2,000,000 dollars sitting there still in the budget. How can you enforce rules if people don't know that they're there? I mean, you've got to be fair and let them know what the rules are to be able to really, you know, enforce it fairly to be fair to the non-English speaking people. So, you're just going around. They don't know, well, we'll tell them. Well, we can't communicate. I mean because I know we did have one Spanish speaking Police Officer finally because there was a time when Police Officers couldn't even do calls hardly because no one spoke Spanish and they'd just go in the house, shut the doors and windows and never come back out because I used to call with kids being left outside screaming they were being beaten. All kinds of stuff. And we got a Spanish speaking Police Officer, but are we ever going to address the fliers going out in both languages?

Mr. Uhl: We could look into that further, but to your comment about the website, most web browsers will translate. On our website specifically, you can go and pick a...

Ms. Merritt: They don't know how to go there.

Mr. Uhl: variety of languages...

Ms. Merritt: They don't know how to go there.

Mr. Uhl: But, to your point about making sure that they know that it's a violation, that's something that we'll look into to make sure notification can be made to them and they can understand what the violation is, but, your points are well taken and I think it was you and I who spoke about a year ago regarding several issues in and around the neighborhood.

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Ms. Merritt: And nothing has changed. It's gotten worse so now it's going to be mind. I've gotta call you guys and email you everyday?

Mr. Uhl: I agree, again...

Ms. Merritt: Everyday.

Mr. Uhl: We're going to try and enforce things, but at the end of the day it comes down to civility and being neighborly with the community you live and it's a neighbor issue and I know people don't always respect their homes the way a lot of other people do, so, but, we will definitely do what we can do from the Police and Building Departments end to enforce the codes that we're allowed to.

Ms. Merritt: Now I know where Garrett gets it. Garrett's answer was he said, "Well we can't see in the backyards". Well, the house at Castro that's on the corner that's one of the worst looking houses on the street, 1080. You can see the backyard from the street. Nothing is blocking it. It's visible. There's two bags of trash in the backyard. It's one of the nastiest in the front and the back. The sewer is covered over. I mean, it's always like that. Any given day. Just pick a day to go down. But Garrett's answer to me was I let him go in my backyard multiple times to see the neighbors. His thing is, "Being a new homeowner they just don't know what owning a home is." They get out of their car during the snow thing, I just picked up all the trash before the snow we had, they had a party across the street, which I don't care. I don't call when they're loud, I don't call when it's until two or three in the morning. My windows shake. I don't care. Have fun. But they got out of their car at 5:00 in the morning they'd start at 5:00, the guy went up the street, got something to eat, they were drunk. They came outside throwing up, and they got something to eat, then got done eating it, and just tossed it in the street, and I was like, "Ugh". Next day, they cleaned out their truck, and it all went into the yard; the first wind we had, it all was in my yard. And that's a constant. I take a Kroger bag every couple of days and walk from my house to the corner and pick up all the trash just because I'm not going to look out. I don't live in Over the Rhine. It cost no money to bend over and pick it up. But I watch them drop it and say, "Could you pick that up?" And they just look at me like I've got two heads and walk in. And that's some of the younger people that speak English. So, if you lived there and constantly, you know, they've stopped passing out in the yard and stopped leaving 12 packs on the car roofs or in the street, but I mean it's a constant. I don't know why Springdale is not enforcing anything. I left my garbage can out. One day I brought it to the front of my garage because I was sick. Too sick to take it to the back, and I got written up. Which is fine, but that's one time in 32 years, and one time I had somebody over and their car hung over the sidewalk a couple of inches. Springdale wrote me up. Fine. Where's all these tickets now with the vehicles in the yard and not moving during snow emergencies.

Mr. Uhl: Your points are well taken, and I assure you we will definitely have our crews get over there and continue. Heritage Hill is probably one of the most policed areas.

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Ms. Merritt: (off mic comments)

Mr. Uhl: There's a lot of patrols that go over there. I know our Building Department is over there quite a bit, and again I know some things don't work necessarily at the speed of how soon you would want it to resolve itself.

Ms. Merritt: (off mic comments)

Mr. Uhl: But nonetheless...

President Anderson: We're going to move on now from that.

Mr. Uhl: I'm just going to share with you that our folks are going to look into this, and we'll definitely try and make this a lot better than what you're seeing right now.

Recap of Legislative Items

Mr. Jacobs: Council, as you review your Legislative Summary, Item I; An Ordinance Authorizing the Acceptance of Street and other Public Improvements Associated with the WaWa Development on Glensprings Drive received a second reading. It was addressed by Ordinance No. 09-2026. After that second reading, it received six affirmative votes. Item II; An Ordinance Approving a Zoning Change from "OB" Office Building to "GI" General Industrial at 11550 Century Boulevard was addressed by Ordinance No. 10-2026, receiving a second reading and also seven affirmative votes. That is all we have this evening.

Legislation in Development - No items brought forth

Adjournment

President Anderson: All that's left before us is Item 17.

Ms. McFarland: Move to adjourn.

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

Council adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Browder  
Clerk of Council

Minutes Approved:

Jeffrey Anderson, President of Council

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