

City of Springdale Council

May 6, 2026

President of Council Anderson called Council to order on May 6, 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 April 15, 2026, meeting were considered. Mr. Jacobs made a motion to accept the minutes; Mr. Hall seconded. The minutes were approved with seven affirmative votes.

Proclamation – Police Week

Mayor Hawkins: It's a wonderful thing to have so much Law Enforcement present. I feel very safe. We're glad you're here.

Mayor Hawkins then read the Proclamation recognizing Police Week and presented it to Chief Butler. (Applause)

Mayor Hawkins: We also have a proclamation for Building Safety Month.

Mayor Hawkins then read the Proclamation and presented it to Chief Building Official Melissa Hays. (Applause)

Presentation – Finance Officer/Tax Commissioner Introduction

Mayor Hawkins: We are thrilled to fill the role of our outstanding one Department Head position that's been open for a little bit. We have patiently waited for the right person, not to just fill it with anybody and we were fortunate to get the individual we are going to introduce to you today. Our new Finance Officer and Tax Commissioner Kelly Flanigan is with us this evening. She's overseeing our Finance Department. She is a Certified Public Accountant with 24 years of experience in the public sector with accounting, taxation and general government operations. Ms. Flanigan graduated from the University of Cincinnati where she earned a Bachelors in Business Administration and a Masters in Science and Accounting. Ms. Flanigan began her career with the Ohio Auditor's State Office conducting financial audits and working with the Special Investigations Unit on special audit cases involving allegations of fraud and theft. She later served the City of Montgomery as an Assistant Finance Director and Tax Commissioner, followed by the City of Loveland as a Director of Finance and most recently Ms. Flanigan served eight years as the Finance Director for Miami Township in Clermont County and we are thrilled to have you present with us today if you would come forward and if you would like to say any words.

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Ms. Flanigan: Sure. I just want to say, "Hello" to everyone and thank you so much for this opportunity. Everyone has been so welcoming and I'm just really looking forward to getting to learn more about the City, getting to work with everyone, and just extremely happy to be here. Thank you very much. (Applause)

Police Department Swearing In – Jeremy Beckwith

Mayor Hawkins: If we could have Jeremy Beckwith come forward, and Chief Butler.

Mayor Hawkins swore in Jeremy Beckwith as a Sergeant of the Springdale Police Department. (Applause)

President Anderson: It's always a pleasure to have all of you here join us. I always feel a lot safer when you're here, but I understand if there's other work that you need to do. Please don't feel like you need to stay for the rest of the meeting. We can take a beat here if you want to go collect yourselves or be with your family out there. We're going to continue with the meeting then after that. Again, thank you for coming and we appreciate it.

Metro Now Update – Troy Miller and Steve Anderson

President Anderson: We'll move on then to the next item on our agenda which is a presentation. It is a Metro Now! update. We have Mr. Troy Miller, the Director of Government Affairs, and Steve Anderson, who is the Senior Director of Transit Development & Innovation. I believe they're giving us an update on the Metro Now! work that we started as a pilot program here and we're getting an update from them tonight. The floor is yours.

Mr. Miller: Before I hand it over, I want to say, "Thank you" to Springdale and the citizens of Hamilton County. Because of this tax levy, these are the projects that we're able to do. We've done MTIF out here. We've helped Springdale, and now Metro Now! is doing great. Steve was able to come out tonight and give a little presentation. For my role, I just want to say, "Thank you" and I continue to work with the Mayor, City Administration, and all the Councilmembers. Thank you.

Mr. (Steve) Anderson: Congratulations. It's been almost three years, and Springdale was the first micro-transit zone ever launched in our county. It's carried almost 400,000 folks since its inception on May 22, 2023. So, we're looking at an anniversary coming up real soon. You can see the map here. We have the zones that are operational currently and three more that are planned. The orange ones will be launched some time this year as soon as we get those vehicles. Again, you guys have had these presentations before by other staff members at Metro. Trips start and end typically in the zone. We do make tweaks based on stakeholder feedback, resident feedback. You can still book trips by the app; that's our preferred method, but we can also book them using the telephone. It's still \$2.50 fare each way, which

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Mr. (Steve) Anderson (continued): is about a pint of gas these days, so you're definitely getting a good deal and uber certainly is not getting any cheaper. About two years ago, we got a lot of feedback from customers that they stated that they wanted hours later, so I think it was ending at 8:00 p.m. on the weekdays, and we extended it out another hour and opened up the time of 9:00 p.m. on weekends and holidays as well. Booking a trip on the app is a breeze. You download the MetroNow! app. I have one on my phone and I can show you how to do it for Android or iPhones. Instructions are pretty simple. Basically, just like an uber, the app notifies you when the vehicle is arriving. Typically, we're about 20-25 minutes from the time you book to a vehicle pulling up to your home or business. There's a phone number there. If you call, some of our senior citizens prefer using the phone and talking to a real person. You can talk to Dispatch. We still take cash, so the fare box is kind of like a drop mechanism. You do the same thing for a return trip. Vehicles, I'm sure you guys have seen these around the area. They're pretty. Pretty dog gone good-looking. There's room for eight along with two wheelchair locations. These are pretty sizable vehicles. We have two children under 55 inches that can ride for free with a paying adult. It's a pretty good deal. This is a map of the zone. To the orange/west, you can see Forest Park. That was added about a year ago. There's this brown zone between the blue and the orange. That is kind of an interlap zone so both Springdale/Sharonville Zone and Pleasant Run/Forest Park can both serve that area. So that's your Kroger's, you've got the Forest Park Park and Ride, you have the Meijer, and you have the hospital up in Butler. So, you can kind of see how the routes interface with the zone. You all are our biggest zone by a square mile because you have some of Woodlawn, you have some of Lincoln Heights, some of very western Sharonville, and all of Springdale. This is a heat map, so, as I mentioned at the outset, we've done almost 400,000 rides. That's a system number. There have been 35,000 to 40,000 rides for Springdale. The heat map's number one spot is The Parks at Springdale Apartments. You see Kroger there on the list as well, downtown Springdale, Springdale Plaza. It's been interesting to see the growth. You can see mostly these are happening where you have a nice mix of commercial and residential. For ridership, there was a great month in March, April was just okay. This report was done before the April numbers were finalized. You can see the numbers for Springdale/Sharonville in the green. Continuing to set records. You're at about 4,500 on a good month. Typically, these pop a little more in the summertime when it's nice. Tend to trail off a little bit in the winter when it's not as nice. Light blue, if you guys are interested, that's Forest Park, your neighbors to the west and we launched a Blue Ash/Montgomery zone. Again, this is the OG Granddaddy. It's doing pretty well. It's not doing as well as Colerain, but that is to be expected given the density and population mix. This is the same graphic pretty much broken-down weekdays, Saturday and Sunday for the system. Doing about 500 a day, which is pretty good. Approximately 94% of riders are using the app. Some folks still do call 4.9 on a 5-star scale. Cash versus the app payment. That is something that we would like to not carry around a lot of cash in a drop box for the driver, so we're going to see how we can move everything over to the app. There is the scan (QR Code). You guys know Troy, you know me now. It's nice being out here and will take any questions. Thank you.

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Mr. Gleaves: I have a question. Where is the Metro hub for those vehicles?

Mr. (Steve) Anderson: You mean where they're staged?

Mr. Gleaves: Yes, where are they staged at?

Mr. (Steve) Anderson: Typically, it's the Kroger's in Woodlawn.

Mr. Gleaves: So, for our area, what would you say the average response time is when you use the app?

Mr. (Steve) Anderson: About 22 minutes.

Mr. Gleaves: 22?

Mr. (Steve)Anderson: Yes.

Mr. Gleaves: Great.

Mr. (Steve) Anderson: A little more when school lets out because we have some of the vans that are actually taking school kids, some of the Princeton kids. About 22 minutes.

Mr. Gleaves: That's good. Thank you.

Mr. (Steve) Anderson: Yes.

Mayor Hawkins: No question, really just wanted to say again it's really appreciated how the dollars that went through when this was a ballot initiative had turned back around in a very tangible way for the communities; whether it's roads, we've got a significant amount of money from Metro with regard to the Northland Blvd. Project. It's absolutely amazing; two million dollars and then to have things like this that help people whether they have their own transportation or not, it creates an excellent opportunity that's very cost effective and you guys have been very responsive when you came out the initial time and got some feedback with regard to it would be nice if the hours were a little bit later, and you guys have done that. Just really appreciate it. Thank you guys and thank you for coming out and sharing with us how the program is going.

Mr. Uhl: Your presentation was fantastic and very timely. Our first order of business this evening for Council is the first reading of a piece of legislation granting us the authorization to apply for a grant to redo our bus shelters, so, looking to further expand the ridership in the area and give our current bus shelters a huge, much-needed facelift. So, thank you very much.

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Mr. (Steve) Anderson: Appreciate that. Well, since you mentioned bus shelters, we have new stops coming. They are already winning awards, so we put one in by the University of Cincinnati. Those will be coming to Springdale, hopefully in the summer timeframe. They look great. They're free of charge, and we'll maintain them.

Mr. Uhl: Great. Looking forward to those. Thank you.

President Anderson: Those are all words that we like hearing on Council managing the budget. I love that opportunity. I do also want to say just to close the thought out that the way that MetroNow! has been responsive, not just to ours, but also the way you adjusted the zones from the original pilot was very helpful. I got a lot of good feedback from people who are using it on our side, especially when we made sure that not just Kroger's was included, but also Mercy up in Butler. People were worried that was going to be an issue since one of the main drivers was being able to get to some of these medical facilities. So, having that and keeping an overlap between Forest Park and our zone is really helpful because we're right on that border and I wouldn't want to fight with the neighbors on who gets that in their zone, so I appreciate you being willing to have an overlap zone for some of those key services. So, thank you for maintaining that and being responsive to the users. I've gotten nothing but positive feedback, especially about the drivers that we didn't talk about tonight. It's so funny. Some of the seniors when I talk to them about taking it to go to our Senior Center, or the Rec Center, or they take it to Kroger, or doctor's appointments, their first comment isn't about the cost or the convenience, it's, "That driver was so nice. He waited and he came right to the door." And things like that. So, whatever your hiring practices are, they seem to be working at least for the drivers in our regions. So, thank you for that.

Mr. (Steve) Anderson: Outstanding.

President Anderson: I don't see anymore lights. Thank you for coming and providing the information.

Communications - None

Communications from the Audience - None

Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance No. 19-2026 (First Reading)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO FILE AN APPLICATION WITH THE SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (SORTA) FOR METRO TRANSIT INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS RELATED TO THE BUS SHELTER REPLACEMENT PROJECT, AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE ALL CONTRACTS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE PROJECT

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President Anderson: Council, you've heard the first reading of Ordinance No. 19-2026. Are there any questions or discussion this evening? (None) Seeing none, we will see this again at our next meeting.

Ordinance No. 20-2026

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 112 OF THE SPRINGDALE CODE OF ORDINANCES REGULATING DOOR-TO-DOOR CANVASSING

Mayor Hawkins: While this is just a first reading, it's important to note this is important legislation with regard to folks going door-to-door. It's been an increasing issue of trying to manage and regulate commercial speech. Again, you go through the ordinance it doesn't deal with some other things in terms of some political speech or things of that nature, but to manage commercial speech, this legislation is narrowly tailored to address a compelling interest with regard to trying to protect residents and make sure that folks are not going around doing fraudulent things that would impact them. So, as this comes back through again, I think there's the teeth in here that are needed to go through enforcement and have some real consequences with people that are violating these laws. Thank you.

Mr. Jacobs: A couple of questions. If we could look at 112.12, "Denial or Revocation". So, if somebody's permit is denied or revoked or the person is aggrieved, so it reads, "Any person aggrieved by the action of the Chief of Police or his or her designee in the denial or revocation of a permit shall have the right to appeal to a higher-level administrative authority." Do we know what the higher-level administrative authority would be?

Mayor Hawkins: We had that conversation too about going through and trying to define that clearly and so I think we can have another submission that's going to indicate that ultimately it's going to come back through and to the Mayor or the Mayor's designee, the idea it would be either myself or the City Administrator or the Assistant City Administrator.

Mr. Jacobs: I have one additional question. At the very end, 112.99, the penalty. In 2003, the penalty was \$100. I did a little math, inflation it would be about \$180 today. I'm not saying we need to raise it, but should we consider raising it? Or is \$100 acceptable?

Mayor Hawkins: So, the prior one that I think read as a minor misdemeanor should have been \$150 instead of \$100. So, a minor misdemeanor, if you have it just as it is, it's punishable by \$150, not \$100. So, Mr. Braun was cleaning up that language and then for a first offense, so, just saying, "Hey, it's a minor misdemeanor", as it was, the difference is if the person commits another offense and it goes up to a misdemeanor of the fourth degree, which is punishable by 30 days in jail and \$250 fine. I'm not one who tends to over criminalize things. There's legislation on the books that I think involves people leaving out trash cans that I think is overly criminalized. But, this I think is appropriate because I personally have watched individuals that I've

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Mayor Hawkins (continued): confronted to say, "Hey, you can't do that if you don't have permission, going through the process, registering with the City and I turn around, drive down the street, and they're back at it, knocking on doors, so, it's not okay. The one for the business, under subsection B, it's an unclassified misdemeanor because if you're hitting a business with a \$100 fine, it's nothing, right? So, to put some teeth in it where they're going to have some kind of motivation to make sure they're not continuing to do that and they're going to rein in their employees is the reason why I personally thought it would be appropriate to have a classified misdemeanor with a higher fine to also incentivize businesses to not have employees out there.

Mr. Braun: As the Mayor indicated, I did circulate to everyone a redline copy with some of the changes the Mayor talked about. If there are any other things that members of Council would like to see revised or if you have questions, reach out to City Administration. Any of us can answer those. This was a first reading tonight, but, as the Mayor indicated, I think we did want to put some teeth in Section 112.99. Additionally, I wanted to make sure everyone was aware that the appeal process would go through the Mayor and City Administrator. There's precedent for this. You may recall that with our marijuana permits, any kind of appeal and final process does go through the same process, so we felt this was kind of administrative and should follow that same sequence. But, if anyone's got any questions, as the Mayor indicated, you can ask any of us, and we'll have a final revised copy present for the second reading at the next meeting.

Mr. Hall: Just as a matter of clarification, so the first offense would be a minor misdemeanor and then would escalate after that? Is that my understanding? Is that correct?

Mayor Hawkins: Yes. It would then go to a misdemeanor of the fourth degree where it would be a jailable offense. So, if you have people that can't seem to understand you can't without being registered with the City, go around and knock on doors, and you've been told, then the next time law enforcement comes up they could be arrested. Again, I don't know that everybody needs to go to jail for 30 days, but the point is for our law enforcement to be able to arrest somebody off of this, if they continue to persist and do that was the goal.

Mr. Hall: Understand. Thank you, Mayor.

Mr. Jacobs: Sorry, two more quick ones. It looks like the maximum time for a permit is one year. I think that's what I was reading when I went through it. And there's a fee. Does the fee relate to the duration of the permit required? I didn't see anything about a fee structure.

President Anderson: Are you talking about the application fee that's in 112.04(B)? It says, "At the time of filing the application, a fee of \$25 shall be paid to the Police Department to cover the cost of investigation of the facts stated therein."

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Mr. Jacobs: The question came up when I was reading 112.05(C)(4) "The amount of fee paid for the permit". I was just curious if it was tied to duration if there's a standard fee. I just didn't see a number. It's not a crucial question and we could get that information by email. I did have one final question.

President Anderson: I think Ms. Morgan might have an answer for you.

Ms. Morgan: There's just a \$25 application fee. That's a flat fee that's not related to the duration of the permit, if accepted.

Mr. Jacobs: And, my last question, and this is just an idea. As a resident, I was wondering if the City could post as public information entities that have received a permit. Is that something that the City would consider doing as just like a public notice to say, "These companies do have permission".

President Anderson: I think that might be somewhat how Sharonville approaches it. When they issue one, they post a notice on their Facebook page that one has been issued and what it is.

Mr. Uhl: That's definitely something we can look into to see how we can make that happen. One of the requirements though is they are required to wear a badge around their neck the entire time they are soliciting. So, it's a badge with our logo on it. Has their picture, their name. It's yellow. I'll bring one in for our next meeting so I can share with everyone, but that would be the visual indicator if someone's knocking on the door that this person is a registered solicitor with the City.

President Anderson: We're not expecting to include rules that their "Manager has it back at the van. I can get him to come up and show you if you need it." It's per person, not an organizational license.

Mr. Uhl: Correct. Per person, yes.

Mr. Jacobs: Thank you.

President Anderson: And one thing I'll add. I think this is a long time coming. I'm glad that the updates are coming. I do agree that it should have teeth available to it even if it's not required. For me, it's a public safety issue, especially we're in a time right now that where people are very aware of who's going through our neighborhoods, and it would help our residents feel safer and it also would make them safer if we do these background checks. We've had instances where people have come up and it would help prevent scams. It talks about utility stuff, it talks about any kind of door-to-door sales, and you just never know if it's a scam. So, being registered should give people confidence. And my hope is that the businesses also see this is as a benefit, right? That then our residents should know that this is valid if they're coming to the door. So, it should help them too. It's punitive if they don't follow

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President Anderson (continued): it, but it should be helpful to the businesses if it is followed. So, I appreciate the teeth being in there. We will see this again at our next meeting.

Ordinance No. 21-2026 (First Reading with Emergency)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF NATURAL GAS FOR THE CITY'S NATURAL GAS AGGREGATION PROGRAM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Jacobs made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 21-2026; Mr. Gleaves seconded.

Ordinance No. 21-2026 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Ordinance No. 22-2026 (First Reading)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO A FUNDING AGREEMENT WITH THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO TO ADMINISTER A 2026 SMALL EVENT GRANT

President Anderson: Council, you've heard the first reading of Ordinance No. 22-2026. Any questions or discussion this evening? (None) Seeing none, we will see this again at our next meeting.

Ordinance No. 23-2026 (First Reading)

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING APPROXIMATELY 0.118 ACRES OF PROPERTY AS PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY ALONG A PORTION OF GLENSPRINGS DRIVE AS DEDICATED IN THE CCA GLENSPRINGS SUBDIVISION

Mr. Uhl: I distributed a map this evening at your place at the dais. After a conversation with Mr. Gleaves, he suggested this would be pretty helpful and I agree, so I apologize, it wasn't included in your initial packet. I wasn't expecting anyone to plug in the latitude and longitude to help figure it out. But, along the lines of the map there, you'll see where we had some existing right-of-way. If you look at the right side of the page, we had to go over to the west a little bit to acquire some additional right-of-way as a result of some intersection improvements, And then also along Glensprings Drive, you'll see the existing right-of-way there to the south there, run along the sidewalk area where we had to go north a little bit as a result of that new drop lane that was created to turn into the establishment there, so, that's essentially us taking over control and maintenance of those designated areas.

President Anderson: Better to ask for it now than in the winter when we have to plow it. I will say though, I don't know if you've gotten feedback. There were a lot of concerns initially with the Wawa going in there for traffic in general and how the flow would be. The straw poll I took over the past week has all been very positive. I don't want to say surprisingly positive, but positive in terms of flow in and out of Wawa and the way that the drop lane works and the signage, I'll call it out as being very effective and people haven't felt, I mean it's been busier, but they haven't felt like it's slowed them

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President Anderson (continued): down significantly. So, the work that we did there; timing the lights, and changing and adding a drop lane was all appreciated it seems like it's working, so thank you for that work. I don't see any other lights, so we will see this again at our next meeting.

Resolution No. R04-2026

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE'S PARTICIPATION IN THE OHIO ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC TREASURERS 2027 WORKERS' COMPENSATION GROUP RETROSPECTIVE RATING PROGRAM

Mr. Gleaves made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R04-2026; Mr. Jacobs seconded.

Resolution No. R04-2026 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Executive Session – Economic Development

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

Mr. Jacobs: Second.

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

Council departed chambers at 7:47 p.m. Council returned to chambers at 8:58 p.m.

Old Business - None

New Business

Town Hall Q & A

President Anderson: We had one item of new business already on the agenda which is discussion we wanted to firm up the town hall Q & A and Council summer meeting scheduling. Basically, information on how we talked about these in a few meetings. Both topics individually. First, let's cover the Town Hall Q & A. There had been a suggestion that we have another Town Hall Q & A; an open Q & A that is optional for Councilmembers to attend. It will be a formal meeting, but it is a new thing that we've been trying to do. Everyone would be invited and welcomed. We've talked about it as what was proposed was September 9th date which is the Wednesday in between our Council meetings in September, between the first and third, so it's that second Wednesday, is that right? And we're talking about 7:00 p.m. So, with that as proposed, do people have concerns about that, does that date work? If people have issues with it, otherwise we'd like to get that moving.

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Mrs. Webster: I have a question for Mr. Braun. The 75 days before election. Is that all elections, or just Springdale's elections with the Town Hall? Last year, we had a big mess because people didn't know.

President Anderson: Well, as Mr. Braun looks that up, I'll just remind you that that 75 date is before Springdale elections and that can also be overridden with the assent of Council. So, Council can decide to go inside of that window regardless.

Mrs. Webster: I'm afraid if we have one of these prior to the elections, there will be a lot of grandstanding, and I could tell for Springdale people. I prefer to have it after the election, then the new people who are newly elected could get involved and understand everything.

President Anderson: Right, but that's what this would be. We don't have Springdale elections this fall. We're talking about September 9th.

Mrs. Webster: That's what I asked if the elections have to be all elections or just Springdale elections before the 75-day rule goes into effect. I'm not opposed to a town hall at all.

President Anderson: Right, I'm saying, regardless though, regardless of that ordinance, we don't have Springdale elections this November.

Mrs. Webster: I know that.

President Anderson: So, we're talking about scheduling it for this September.

Mrs. Webster: Right.

President Anderson: The ordinance wouldn't prohibit regardless if it was any or Springdale, or us having the meeting if Council agrees to have the meeting.

Mrs. Webster: Well, we had such a mess last year because everybody didn't know the rule and so forth and so on and they wanted to make it into a candidate's night and all kinds of junk.

Mr. Braun: We looked it up. It's statutory, not a charter requirement, and it is limited to municipal elections. So, there's no municipal election this year.

Mrs. Webster: Correct.

Mr. Braun: So, given that there's no municipal election it would not apply to the November election that's coming up. It's only a municipal election.

Mrs. Webster: Okay. That's what I wanted to know. So, I still would like to propose that when you have your town halls that we do it after the local elections. Do it after

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Mrs. Webster (continued): the town halls, or after the election so everyone who's newly elected or even reruns, they'd be more involved and understand it more. That's the way I feel about that. I've been around too long. I know what would happen if we had it before the election.

President Anderson: So, I will say that one of the reasons that we had picked the early September date/late August date, was it was an opportunity for residents to give feedback. It was about halfway between the Administration's, the Mayor's State of the City and before the budgets are really finalized, and before we have the discussion. So, the thinking was we split the difference and also it was nice so that if there was feedback that came in through that channel, that we would have an opportunity to react to it; feedback from the residents for next year's budget. My concern with waiting until December or later for that is that if there are things that we needed to do, it would be difficult to integrate that into that next year's budget or priorities. So, that's why we did it. It was more to focus on having an opportunity for the residents' feedback to have a real impact. I don't know that, aside from now, that we've ever had a discussion about concern about Councilmembers behavior in a Q & A. I know when we had the Q & A last time two years ago, I don't recall any concerns about that, and I don't know that there was anything that I would call grandstanding.

Mrs. Webster: This hasn't come up for years. But the reason it came up was a few years back, and that's why that exists. But last year it was up, we had a lot of problems because everybody didn't know the rule and everybody wanted to turn it into a candidate's night. A candidate's night and all kinds of stuff. And if you had it where you had it after the election you wouldn't have all that stuff.

President Anderson: I guess what I would propose is that maybe we look at a different date on municipal election years to keep it before the 75 days. There's no municipal election this year.

Mrs. Webster: I know that.

President Anderson: Right, but we're only talking about scheduling this meeting. This one town hall.

Mrs. Webster: Okay, so this is only for this year.

President Anderson: We're only talking about September 9th.

Mrs. Webster: And then we'll be back again next year, hashing it out again.

President Anderson: We can decide next year if we want to have the town hall again and what the date would be based on the conditions.

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Mrs. Webster: Why can't we make it a rule or an addition to that now? Why do we have to wait until there's more problems occurring which could occur next year? So, I don't understand why we just can't put that into the ordinance now that it will be after the elections and not prior.

President Anderson: We'll get more thoughts on it but just know it's not an ordinance. We're just scheduling a meeting, and we can call a meeting anytime we want. There's no ordinance or scheduling required.

Mayor Hawkins: Mrs. Webster, I understand your concerns and obviously Council had put that ordinance into effect years ago.

Mrs. Webster: Right.

Mayor Hawkins: And I just want to be clear. So, when this first took place now two years ago, literally we probably had the State of the City address. I spoke with President Anderson and said, "Like to have something where Council can be involved with talking with residents if they're interested in a more casual environment versus just coming out here." And I said to him, "I'm interested in doing it. If nobody else wants to do it, I'll go do it by myself." He indicated, "Hey look, I'm in. I'm interested in doing it. We'll open it up for Council and don't want anybody to feel like they have to do it." That's really important. It's not something where anybody should look bad, feel bad if they don't go. So, the idea was, like President Anderson said. I said, we shot for six months from March where we do the State of the City. It's a good break and it gives folks the opportunity to do stuff before budget. Now, the reality. You are 100% right with regard to ordinance in an election year for Springdale. We cannot do it that late. We have to put it in a different timeframe. This comes around for 2027, that will be a discussion the folks have to have whether there is one. We didn't have one last year, so maybe it's something where folks go, "Hey, it's too hot with people running and people are going to be getting signatures together in the spring and in June, July. " Maybe it's not done. That's something we can talk about at that point in time and they're valid points with regard to that. But that's kind of how that came to be. I personally have never said I wanted it to be a candidate's forum. Some other people may have had those discussions, but that was not something that I wanted. It's not what it's intended for.

Mrs. Webster: Mayor, you and I had a lengthy conversation about that. I'm sure you remember.

Mayor Hawkins: I do. I know you were concerned about that, but I'm just telling you this is how that came to be. In 2027, I think it's something where there are a lot of valid points and concerns and I say we address that then. I guess you're asking me if Council wants to do an ordinance now, just blanket it generally.

Mrs. Webster: That's right.

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Mayor Hawkins: That's a Council decision if you guys want to go and do that, but I just wanted to be clear that's where this came from initially as an idea.

Mrs. Webster: But I don't understand why we just can't say whenever there's local elections that you don't even have a town hall until after the election. I'm not saying take away the town hall, but let it exist, but after the elections because I can see and hear and I know what's going to happen.

Mayor Hawkins: What I'm hearing you say is maybe the 75 days before a Springdale election is insufficient and that it should be a longer period of time. That's something for Council to have a conversation about. So, Council can change the legislation however they want, but even with that, for this year, it's not an issue for us for this year, but those are valid points and Council can have that talk.

Mrs. Webster: Okay.

Mayor Hawkins: Thank you ma'am.

Mrs. Webster: Thank you.

President Anderson: And then the other item that we want to discuss. What do we want to do? So, I can call the meeting regardless. We can have it for September 9th and then next year we'll plan to have a discussion early, if we're going to have it. My concern at this point is we're at May, right, and if we're not advertising and preparing for it, we just need to pick a date. If we go too far out into the year, aside from the budget issue, and the timing is that then you start getting into holidays and it's more difficult to have those types of discussions. So, we still need to make a decision. We're only talking about this next meeting, and then we can talk about changing the ordinance or making a rule for municipal election years separately, but we still need to decide tonight.

Mrs. Webster: I just think it would stop some problems if everybody knows we can have a town hall and it will be after the election. So, everyone that's newly elected, like I said, or repeat could be involved and understand things. You haven't before. I see problems. That's all I'm asking.

President Anderson: I understand. So, for 2027 I want to have that discussion to plan for it. What I want to do tonight is schedule the 2026 meeting only. There's no ordinance required. I'm trying to understand if people are going to be available. It was more a scheduling question as opposed to an ordinance question. If we want to talk about changing the ordinance for 2027 and do that and talk about a November date, that's fine, but what we're talking about tonight is does anybody on Council have a hard issue, not a philosophical issue for 2027, but for 2026, do people have hard scheduling conflicts or do you see something in the Community that would conflict

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President Anderson (continued): with that that. Because we don't want to compete with things like big school events or other civic events. So, the question is, really do people see issues this year with September 9, 2026, at the Rec Center for the town hall?

Mr. Jacobs: I have no issues. I like the date as is. I would be in favor of setting up this meeting.

Mrs. Webster: Why are we talking about this year's election when we don't have any elections?

President Anderson: That was the topic you brought up. You talked about election issues.

Mrs. Webster: We're not having any in 2026 locally. You said that three or four times and I know that. So why are we even discussing this tonight?

President Anderson: Right now, we're talking about scheduling the town hall for September 9th at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Gleaves: I see no problem with scheduling September 9th. Thank you.

Mrs. Webster: No problem with what?

President Anderson: He had said that he saw no problems with the September 9th, 2026, time. For this year. We're talking about this year. So, I'm not hearing conflicts for this year, but I do take the note that we need to have a longer conversation about ongoing plans for the town hall. I will remind people in terms of stakes, last time we had a good turnout. There was, I want to say, 50 people. It was pretty well attended, but this isn't a City-moving type of event right now. I do want to get it advertised so that people have the opportunity to ask questions. So, we're going to go ahead and stick with that date for this year, and we'll go ahead and talk about if we need to update the ordinance or take a look at making it maybe earlier so that it's not an issue, maybe it's earlier in the year, maybe we do it in August or July, especially if we're going to be having summer schedules, so maybe we do it as a regular rotation that in place of one of our summer meetings that we cancel, we have the Q & A, right? So, that's another opportunity instead of pushing it back, maybe we pull it forward a little bit. Not so much that it steps on what's going on with the State of the City, but maybe it comes into the summer and replaces one of our summer meetings. So, that's something else to think about as an alternative. So, we'll go ahead and talk about that, but as a segue to the other item that was there, it was about summer schedule.

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Council Summer Meeting Schedule

President Anderson: Historically, Council has taken July and August instead of having two meetings, we typically just keep the one second meeting, the full meeting that has all the Committee reports in that. So that's the July 15th and August 12th. Now, this past summer we did cancel it differently, but that was to get around construction schedules. We were trying to accommodate that. So, the question for this year, and first it's for Administration to make sure that we're not anticipating a heavy load. Typically, we do the summer schedule because the ordinance load is much lower during the year and we don't typically need two meetings to get all the City's business done. We always caveat those cancellations with saying if there's work the City has to do, we'll call the meeting and have the meeting. So, while we want people to be able to make plans with their family and do all the things that people do in the summer, just know that if we do move to our summer schedule there is still that possibility, just like any day, there's something important or urgent in the City that can't wait, we will still have a meeting. It may not be the regular meeting; it will be a special meeting. Let me first confirm with administration, do you anticipate a load that's conducive to a summer schedule again this year or should we be skipping it?

Mr. Uhl: Yes. No, I think what we have projected throughout the summer, the summer schedule will accommodate all the legislation.

President Anderson: Okay. So, with hearing that from Administration, the proposal that I have is to maintain our summer schedule, which would mean we would cancel the July 1st and August 5th meetings. With that as a proposal, does anyone have concern or question before we make it a motion? I just want to make sure we have it before we go into that. Do people have issues with summer schedule? (None) You'll have another opportunity to respond. So, at this point, the Chair is open to a motion to cancel our July 1st and August 5th meeting to move to the summer schedule.

Mr. Hall: Motion affirmed.

President Anderson: Is there a second?

Mr. Gleaves: Second.

Motion to maintain the summer schedule as described passes with seven affirmative votes.

President Anderson: Please do keep in mind that it is possible that we may need to have them if things were to come, but in general if something comes up, we'll give you as much notice as possible.

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Meetings and Announcements

Mr. Hall: Just as a matter of clarification, where are we at with this town hall? Is it September 9th? If it is September 9th, then will it be part of the record that that will be for this year only and be decided for 2027 at a later date? Is that my understanding?

President Anderson: So, you're correct. What we're going to do is call it will be a meeting. Because there will be more of the Councilmembers there, it's a quorum, so technically it's a meeting. And I'll be calling it as a meeting. It doesn't require an ordinance or change, but it will be for September 9th. I believe we talked about 7:00 p.m. The time is subject to change based on review and Administration and what's available.

Mr. Hall: I understand. Thank you.

President Anderson: It will be at the Community Center. But, yes, that's for this year. We can talk about next year later.

Ms. McFarland: Planning Commission will meet in these chambers on May 11th at 7:00 p.m. and the Board of Health will meet in these chambers on May 14th at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Gleaves: The Zoning Code Revision Committee will meet tomorrow in the conference room at 2:30 p.m. And the Board of Zoning Appeals is scheduled to meet the 26th at 7:00 p.m. in these chambers. That's all I have. Thank you.

Ms. Morgan: The next Civil Service Commission meeting will be tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. Thank you.

Ms. McFarland: Sorry, I was asked to remind everybody that the Community Luncheon at the elementary school is next Wednesday the 13th.

President Anderson: And, as a reminder, if you have not RSVP'd, I think you might be too late to Mr. Uhl, but I'm sure if you did not RSVP and still plan to attend, we can see what we can do to accommodate. But, please let them know so they can plan appropriately. In the past, I will encourage everyone if you're on the fence to go, it's a lovely event that the school puts on. The kids are all there for lunch, they have things that they've made to thank you. They have discussions. It's really a nice time.

Communications from the Audience - None

Recap of Legislative Items

Mr. Jacobs: Council, as you review your Legislative Summary, Item I; An Ordinance Amending Chapter 112 of the Springdale Code of Ordinances Regulating Door-To-Door Canvassing was addressed by Ordinance No. 20-2026, receiving a first reading. Item II; An Ordinance Authorizing the City Administrator to File an Application with the

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Mr. Jacobs (continued): Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA) for Metro Transit Infrastructure Funds Related to the Bus Shelter Replacement Project, and Authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to Execute All Contracts and Other Documents Related to the Project was addressed by Ordinance No. 19-2026, also receiving a first reading. Item III; An Ordinance Authorizing the City Administrator to Execute an Agreement for the Purchase of Natural Gas for the City's Natural Gas Aggregation program and Declaring an Emergency was addressed by Ordinance No. 21-2026 receiving seven affirmative votes. Item IV; An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to Enter Into a Funding Agreement with the Board of County Commissioners of Hamilton County, Ohio to Administer a 2026 Small Event Grant was addressed by Ordinance No. 22-2026, receiving a first reading. Item V; An Ordinance Accepting Approximately 0.118 Acres of Property as Public Right of Way Along a Portion of Glensprings Drive as Dedicated in the CCA Glensprings Subdivision was addressed by ordinance No. 23-2026, receiving a first reading. Item VI; A Resolution Authorizing the City of Springdale's Participation in the Ohio Association of Public Treasurers 2027 Workers' Compensation Group Retrospective Rating Program was addressed by Resolution No. R04-2026, receiving seven affirmative votes.

Legislation in Development

Mr. Jacobs: We have Item VII; An Ordinance Declaring Certain City Property as Surplus Property and Authorizing the Sale, Disposal, or Transfer of Surplus Property. That will be before Council at our next meeting on the 20th.

Mr. Jacobs: And then, finally, Council by voice vote approved moving to a summer schedule cancelling our July 1st and August 5th meetings. That's all I have.

Adjournment

Ms. McFarland: Move to adjourn.

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

Council adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Browder
Clerk of Council

Minutes Approved:

Jeffrey Anderson, President of Council

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