

CITY OF SPRINGVILLE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 21, 2022

WORKSHOP:

The City Council of the City of Springville met in a rescheduled workshop session on Monday, February 21, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. at Springville City Hall. Mayor Dave Thomas presided and City Clerk Lynn Porter served as recording secretary.

Those members answering present to roll call were as follow:

District 1	Councilmember Herbert Toles
District 2	Councilmember David Vinson
District 3	Councilmember Wayne Tucker
District 4	Councilmember Katrina Hennings
District 6	Councilmember Marshall Parker
District 7	Councilmember Sherry Reaves
Mayor	Dave Thomas

Absent: District 5 Councilmember Tim Walker

Others present in official capacity: Attorney James Hill
Attorney Charlie Waldrep

Attorney James Hill advised the City Council that between \$100-\$120 million in COVID funds will be available through a State grant program for cities and counties for water and sewer grants. He encouraged the city to apply for this funding. We will need to identify the project and get engineering done and submit it.

Councilmember Tucker pointed out that the money is available, not assured.

Attorney Hill stated this is correct. This will be a grant application to either the SRF or ADEM, whichever agency is chosen to administrate these grants.

Councilmember Toles asked was this a matching grant and was told the rules have not been promulgated yet.

Councilmember Reaves stated a grant opportunity could allow us to increase the size of our sewer plant.

Councilmember Hennings stated this would be a good opportunity to improve roads that we have not been able to pave.

Attorney Hill stated these grant funds are for water and sewer, but after April 1, the city could claim the standard economic loss and direct the money we have already received to that purpose, or if matching is required for the grant, those monies could be directed as match for the grant money.

Public Works Director Earl Peoples stated that the lagoon will not be upgraded or expanded. That facility is at maximum outflow for the discharge point. We need a treatment plant.

Councilmember Toles asked was this above the improvement made several years ago, and was told yes, that was to keep the current plant working, but gave no additional capacity.

Attorney Hill stated sometimes joint applications are viewed more favorably. He pointed out that a radio system upgrade is needed county-wide.

Attorney Hill stated Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham presented options for a redistricting plan recently. The law says jurisdictions should seek to have no greater than a 5% deviation in the size of districts. He stated he would encourage the Council to consider one of the options so that we can have everything done and all our bases covered well in advance of the next election.

A request for funding from the St. Clair County Economic Development office was discussed. It was pointed out that this was included in our adopted budget. This will be added to the agenda.

A request for funding from the St. Clair Conservation District for their educational Water Festival event in the amount of \$250 was discussed and added to the agenda.

Mr. Doug Morrison presented a schematic showing the repositioned entry road to the preserve along with the anticipated survey costs for this relocation. He also presented a schematic of the gate to be installed and the cost for the gate.

Councilmember Vinson stated we would like to have this same gate design installed at all our city parks.

Mayor Thomas stated we are getting the stones from the culverts along Highway 11. He asked would this be an opportunity to repurpose these stones.

Councilmember Tucker stated, contrary to some rumors, these are not WPA rocks.

Councilmember Toles stated Mr. Do Leopard is willing to help with the trails.

Mr. Morrison responded that there will be many opportunities for volunteers.

Fire Chief Richard Harvey stated a recent fire burned approximately eighteen acres, eight of which were on the preserve property.

Mr. Morrison invited the Council to attend a private groundbreaking on March 3 at noon.

The Springville Community Theater will not be able to have their production this Summer as planned due to circumstances beyond their control. They have asked if the City wants the funding provided to be returned, or if they can keep it for a future production. After discussion, the Council agreed the money can be kept as long as it is used for a future production, and that if the funds are not used by next year, that they be returned to the city. The City Attorney will send a letter to them.

Mr. Dean Goforth commended the City Council on conservative budget practices. When the budget was adopted, the Council said they would review it after the first of the year. The City is in a good financial position. Twenty-three percent of the city income comes from Water and Sewer. We looked at salaries of first responders when COVID struck and increased those salaries as allowed using COVID pandemic funds, and later made those increases permanent. The Public Works department workers were also deemed “essential workers” during the pandemic, but the funding provided did not cover this sector of employees. Mr. Goforth asked that the salaries of these employees be addressed at this time. This department has seen no raises or position upgrades over the past five years, and as essential employees, were required to work every day during the COVID shut down of many facilities. He presented a recommended pay scale to the Council. This item was added to the agenda.

Attorney Hill pointed out that these increases were anticipated in the approved budget.

Councilmember Vinson asked was this a 10-step pay scale and was told yes.

Fire Chief Richard Harvey stated the city formerly had a 20-step scale and that was too long. He suggested a 15-year scale. He stated a part of the problem in employee advancement is our size. There is not as much opportunity to move up when there are only ten to fifteen employees.

Earl Peoples stated that action going from a twenty to a ten-step scale caused all his employees to be topped out at step ten, thus freezing their wages in the middle. Later employees have been hired making the same pay at entry as his employees who have been here up to twenty years.

Mr. Goforth stated pay scales are fragmented across departments. We need to look at all job descriptions, job classifications, accountability, and evaluations, or get rid of it.

Attorney Hill stated that the City needs to closely review their job classifications and pay scales. He stated he is looking at this and hopes to have this by late summer for Council consideration, and once this is done, if approved, it needs to be followed.

Mr. Goforth mentioned a longevity system and was told by Mr. Hill that this is already in place.

Councilmember Reaves thanked Mr. Goforth and Attorney Hill for the time put into this.

The workshop was concluded.

MEETING

The City Council of the City of Springville met in a regular session on Monday, February 21, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at Springville City Hall. Mayor Dave Thomas presided and City Clerk Lynn Porter served as recording secretary.

Those members answering present to roll call were as follow:

District 1	Councilmember Herbert Toles
District 2	Councilmember David Vinson
District 3	Councilmember Wayne Tucker
District 4	Councilmember Katrina Hennings
District 6	Councilmember Marshall Parker
District 7	Councilmember Sherry Reaves
Mayor	Dave Thomas

Absent: District 5 Councilmember Tim Walker

Others present in official capacity: Attorney James Hill
Attorney Charlie Waldrep

Mayor Thomas called the meeting to order. Reverend Larry Adams, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, was called upon to give the invocation, followed by the pledge to the flag.

The minutes of the February 7, 2022 meeting were presented for approval. Councilmember Toles moved they be approved, seconded by Councilmember Vinson, and the motion carried.

The agenda was presented for approval. Councilmember Hennings moved the agenda be approved, seconded by Councilmember Reaves, and the vote was unanimous.

Councilmember Toles moved the \$15,000.00 allocation for the St. Clair County Economic Development agency be paid, seconded by Councilmember Parker, and the vote as unanimous.

Councilmember Vinson moved \$250 be approved to support the St. Clair County Conservation District Water Festival, seconded by Councilmember Tucker, and the vote was unanimous.

Councilmember Hennings moved up to \$2,000 be appropriated for the road relocation survey in the preserve, seconded by Councilmember Parker. Mr. Morrison relayed that the funding for the gate was approved in the original appropriation, but this is showing the design. The vote was unanimous.

Councilmember Tucker moved the Community Theater be allowed to keep the money allocated for this year's production, as long as it would be used for the intended purpose for a future production. This was seconded by Councilmember Hennings, and the vote was unanimous.

Councilmember Reaves moved that pay adjustments in the Public Works department be approved as set out in the recommendation, seconded by Councilmember Parker, and the vote was unanimous. Councilmember Reaves pointed out that this is in the budget.

Mayor Thomas stated we have experienced several episodes of severe weather recently. Last week seventy people took shelter in our three community shelters. He stated he was glad that we can provide this for those who need it.

Chief Harvey thanked the CERT team. They operate as shelter managers and relay information to the fire department during these events. Without them, we would have to send an employee.

Mayor Thomas stated we reached out to Ecosouth today on the brush. Some progress has been made and they are still working on Saturdays to get caught up.

Councilmember Hennings asked what we do if the garbage can has not been swapped out to the new providers can and was told to contact the Public Works Department.

Councilmember Tucker stated some of this brush has been laying there for a month. He said he did not see how it can be picked up when people keep adding to the piles.

Chief Harvey asked if there were any garbage customers not in the city and was told no. He stated he would like to discuss a way to identify the properties that are in and out of the city.

Councilmember Tucker moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Councilmember Toles, and the vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Porter
City Clerk