

CITY OF SPRINGVILLE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 6, 2023

WORKSHOP:

The City Council of the City of Springville met in a workshop session on Monday, February 6, 2023 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 follows:

District 1	Councilmember Herbert Toles
District 2	Councilmember David Vinson
District 3	Vacant
District 4	Councilmember Katrina Hennings
District 5	Councilmember Tim Walker
District 6	Councilmember Marshall Parker
District 7	Councilmember Sherry Reaves
Mayor	Dave Thomas

Absent: None

Others present in official capacity: Attorney Jim Hill

Nature Preserve Manager Doug Morrison introduced Mr. Lee Holt of U.S. Fish and Wildlife concerning our upcoming project to construct a permanent sediment pond and bottomless culvert near the chert pit. Mr. Morrison stated they have discovered a Black Nose Tace in the stream, a species that has not been seen in several years.

Councilmember Reaves asked if we have a time frame on construction of the preserve entrance, and was told no.

The budget for the culvert and pond project is \$250,000. The city participation is spelled out in the Landowner Agreement.

Fire Chief Richard Harvey presented an ambulance lease agreement. He stated he has written grants for a new ambulance for the past two years, but each has been denied. Regional Paramedic Service (RPS) has the county-wide contract for ambulance services. Response time has been an issue throughout the area. He has arranged a one-year lease of a reserve ambulance from RPS. We have all the equipment needed, and they will provide the stretcher. He asked for up to \$3,500 to wrap the unit with the City's name. The City would be responsible for maintaining the unit and returning it in essentially the same condition.

Councilmember Walker asked how much the annual maintenance would be.

Chief Harvey replied that RPS has a great maintenance program, assessing their fleet each week. He stated we will allow them to continue to maintain this unit.

Councilmember Parker asked where we would have to take the unit for maintenance, and was told Leeds.

Chief Harvey stated he would anticipate no more than 10 patients in a year.

Councilmember Toles asked would we pay for the maintenance.

Councilmember Parker asked if we blow an engine on a unit with more than 350,000 miles on it, we will have to replace it.

Councilmember Reaves stated we have a contract with RPS now for this service. If they can't perform, is there something we can do?

Attorney James Hill stated this will come before other communities soon. The County 911 Board contracted with RPS approximately twelve years ago. They are understaffed. He stated he has not heard of a vehicle shortage. They are required to respond to 90% of the calls within twenty minutes. They are not meeting this now.

Chief Harvey stated they are penalized \$10,000 to \$15,000 a month for failing to meet this standard.

Attorney Hill stated this is a St. Clair County agreement. It is a zero-fee agreement. The ambulance service changes the user for the service provided. It is not a good idea to pull the service.

Questions were raised concerning liability for ambulance service, liability for medications, and responsibility for repairs to a unit with so many miles on it.

Chief Harvey stated Irondale purchased three ambulances, Leeds purchased one, and Pell City is talking about it. Having an ambulance would give us a better chance of getting grant funding for a new ambulance, as it would not be considered a new service.

Councilmember Toles asked if it would be used in other places besides Springville, and Chief Harvey replied in those places that we have mutual aid agreements as defined in the document.

Chief Harvey stated there would be no charge for transport. We would only transport critical patients. We are not set up for insurance billing.

Attorney Hill stated this would not change the County responsibility under their contract.

Councilmember Hennings questioned whether RPS would not call us to respond rather than responding themselves.

Chief Harvey responded no; we will not respond for them. This is critical transport only. Plan A is to use the contract. Plan B is the back up. We also have a Plan C where we would call on Center Point or Trussville to assist.

Councilmember Parker expressed concerns about mechanical failure causing injury to a patient and the potential for lawsuits. He stated this is a twelve-year-old unit with almost 400,000 miles on it and we must maintain it. He stated he did not think we need to be in the ambulance service.

Chief Harvey stated in 1970, fire departments only fought fires. Within the next ten years, there will be no private ambulance services. The federal reimbursement for these services is only \$200. The only reason RPS is still here is that 90% of patients have private insurance. Nationally, we cannot get people interested in EMS Service.

Attorney Hill stated it was true this is an old truck and true that there is legal exposure.

Councilmember Parker stated he did not think this was a good business decision for the city.

No further business coming before the body the workshop meeting was concluded.

MEETING

The City Council of the City of Springville met in a regular session on Monday, February 6, 2023 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	Vacant
District 4	Councilmember Katrina Hennings
District 5	Councilmember Tim Walker
District 6	Councilmember Marshall Parker
District 7	Councilmember Sherry Reaves
Mayor	Dave Thomas

Absent: None

Others present in official capacity: Attorney James Hill

Mayor Thomas called the meeting to order. Reverend Mike Ennis was called upon to give the invocation, followed by the pledge to the flag.

The minutes of the January 23, 2023 meeting were presented for approval. Councilmember Toles moved they be approved, seconded by Councilmember Hennings, and the motion carried.

The agenda was presented for approval, and the landowner agreement was added. Councilmember Vinson moved the agenda be approved, seconded by Councilmember Parker, and the vote was unanimous.

Ms. Cindy Cornwell, 96 White Oak Drive, stated she was here concerning a situation that has been going on for about five years. She stated Waste Management continually ran over the inlets at White Oak Drive and White Oak Circle and crushed them leaving an open hole that is a danger to children and pets. She stated she understands that the developer never finished or dedicated the roads, but this needs to be fixed. She stated she understood that Waste Management had insurance, but there was no HOA. She asked could the homeowners sign an agreement and get this fixed. She stated she did not have a name for Waste Management or their insurance.

Attorney Hill stated he felt the idea of the homeowners signing was a good one. Since the City does not maintain the streets, we cannot sign.

Public Works Director Earl Peoples stated previously the insurance said they would pay but required a signature. He stated he could provide his last contact with Waste Management.

Councilmember Parker stated The Gardens and Crandall Crest had to pave the streets themselves before the city took them over.

Kathy Fine, newest St. Clair County Board of Education member, was recognized. Ms. Fine stated she was recently appointed by the Governor. She has two granddaughters in school in Springville. She is establishing the Wayne Tucker Memorial Scholarship for a Springville senior going into education. She has an extensive background in education including substitute teacher, bus driver, teacher, AEA office, and lobbyist. She stated she is willing to listen to all.

Austin Phillips was called forward to be installed as the new Councilmember for City Council District 3.

A plan for the construction of a loft in the police garage has been distributed as requested. Councilmember Walker asked the maximum span for a 2 X 8. Building Official Asa Sargent stated he spoke to the person who drew this drawing and 2 X 10s will be used with a 3/8" plywood floor. Councilmember Reaves moved Craftsman Construction Company be awarded a contract to construct this loft at a cost of \$6,475.00, seconded by Councilmember Toles, and the vote was unanimous.

Councilmember Reaves moved Resolution 2023-04 approving a budget amendment reallocating payroll item from Fire to Administration to cover the amount of the temporary

reassignment of personnel. This was seconded by Councilmember Vinson, and the vote was unanimous.

A resolution to authorize an ALDOT paving project within the city limits on Highway 174 between Highway 11 and Highway 25. Councilmember Reaves moved Resolution 2023-05 authorizing this work be approved, seconded by Councilmember Walker. Councilmember Walker asked the timeline and was told we do not know yet. The vote was unanimous.

A resolution to lease an ambulance from RPS was introduced. Councilmember Toles stated when we had Covid in the city, you could not get an ambulance. We do not need to have to wait two to three years.

Councilmember Phillips asked if RPS has a call and know we have an ambulance here, will this affect their response to our calls?

Chief Harvey stated even though this is a concern, he did not think it would be a problem. If it becomes an issue, we will address it. They will still be held to the same contract. If the patient is stable, we will wait. They triage calls now, and take the most serious first. If there is a critical patient, we already send a medic with the patient. Our ambulance will not respond to calls.

Councilmember Toles verified there was no request for manpower, and Chief Harvey replied, for what we are trying to do, no.

Councilmember Toles moved Resolution 2023-06 on the ambulance contract be approved, seconded by Mayor Thomas. The motion did not carry.

Councilmember Reaves moved Resolution 2023-07 approving the Landowner Agreement for Fish and Wildlife on the silt pond and culvert project be approved. This was seconded by Councilmember Vinson, and the motion carried.

Fire Chief Harvey addressed the Council about the purchase of a new fire truck. He stated we purchased a truck in 2020 that was not delivered until mid-2022 at a cost of \$560,000. That truck is now \$788,060 on December 2022 pricing and going to \$817,000. We are told to expect 3%-4% increases per quarter, plus any increases by Cummings or Allison. Delivery on a new truck is now 32-36 months. It was 20-24 months when we purchased the last one. If we purchase a truck now, we will be in a new council administration before it arrives. He stated he has been able to lock in a rate of \$788,060 through the end of this month. He gave information on the existing five trucks. Some of these will be declared surplus and sold. Station 2 has been manned since 2020 by one person. That station only covers 10% of the calls, but it covers that side of the railroad tracks. By March 2025, this truck will be \$1.2 million. The longer we delay, the higher the cost will be. Payment will be due upon delivery.

Councilmember Parker stated he would suggest budgeting for this expense at \$250,000 to \$300,000 annually.

Councilmember Vinson stated he talked to the Fire Chief in Trussville and he said the delivery for a Pierce Fire Truck is four years. He asked how many front line trucks, and was told three.

Chief Harvey stated we have an agreement with Davis Lake Fire District since Sweetwater is more than five miles from a station. We get ISO credit for auto-aid agreements. He stated we need to decide by the next Council meeting.

Attorney Hill stated this purchase will be made from an approved purchasing cooperative.

Councilmember Reaves stated we owe \$402,982 on our currently financed truck to be paid off in 2029.

Councilmember Toles stated Alabama Power will begin cutting trees near power lines in March. He stated we need a way in and out when work is going on at the four-way. ALDOT needs a plan to divert traffic to other areas.

Earl Peoples stated construction should start in four months.

Councilmember Parker stated Village Springs Road is torn up. We need to get with the County to get this paved.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Porter
City Clerk