

CITY OF SPRINGVILLE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 3, 2023

WORKSHOP:

The City Council of the City of Springville met in a workshop session on Monday, April 3, 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	Councilmember Austin Phillips
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

Police Chief Wayne Walton asked permission to send two applicants to the police academy in September. They will graduate in December. He gave the police department for the first quarter of 2023.

	January	February	March	Total
Calls	586	478	606	1,670
Walk-ins	60	92	111	263

Chief Walton reported that Officers Thompson and Bertram completed SRO school over the school's Spring Break.

Councilmember Walker stated the Budget Committee recommended approval of the academy training costs.

Councilmember Phillips asked where we are on filling the SRO vacancy at the Elementary School, as recent events at other schools have people concerned.

Chief Walton responded, he is trying to fill this vacancy.

Councilmember Parker asked about rotating current staff at that school.

Chief Walton stated they are pretty much doing that now. It is not always the same person there to build rapport with the students, but he and his officers are in the school a few hours each during the day. Chief Walton invited the Council to attend the Active Shooter Drill slated for April 22 at the Middle School.

Chief Walton stated one of the officers that left, has returned, but he is still short one on night shift and one SRO.

Ms. Terry Goforth stated last Friday night her three-year-old granddaughter had croup, and it took the ambulance 50 minutes to arrive. She stated her daughter lives six minutes from the Fire Station. She urged the city to get an ambulance.

Councilmember Hennings stated the vote no was not because the Council does not care about the citizens as has been claimed on social media. There are a lot of other considerations. Councilmember Reaves agreed.

Councilmember Parker stated when the city sold their ambulance in 2008, no one said a word. We have a contract for this service.

Councilmember Toles said we did research on the ambulance and took out the responsibility for mechanical failure and looked at insurance and liability. We can send it back.

Councilmember Parker asked if there is a \$10 million claim and we have \$1 million in coverage, where the other \$9 million would come from?

Attorney Hill stated the City's limitation is \$100,000 per negligence claim. The risk is for the individual employees who have no caps.

Councilmember Hennings stated if we lease this ambulance from the same people who have the current ambulance contract, she felt sure that Springville would not have top priority with that company when calls come in, since they know we have an ambulance in the city.

Councilmember Phillips stated he did not think this was a long-term solution. He stated he voted no the first time, and yes, the second time. We need to push the county to come up with something.

Councilmember Parker stated Fire Chief Harvey told us it will only be used 10 or 11 times a year.

Mayor Thomas said the Chief said we would only transport critical patients.

Councilmember Hennings stated Chief Harvey said critical patients were all that we would transport and that would be about ten a year.

Councilmember Walker asked by taking action and having an ambulance and a person who decides who is transported and who is not transported, we are likely to be sued if there is not a good outcome for the one left behind.

Attorney Hill stated the County contract was great ten years ago, but now, not so much. If we go forward, what Councilmember Walker said will come into play. We need a private company to handle us as long as they can.

Councilmember Phillips asked if there were any potential options the County is working on.

Councilmember Reaves stated Chief Harvey is on the committee looking at this.

Attorney Hill stated this is an exclusive contract. The provider is only allowed to charge what insurance will pay. Those reimbursement rates are very low. One potential answer could be for the government to set aside money for a subsidy. There are a few other options. The ambulance equipment is not the problem. Having personnel to make the calls is the problem. Hospitals are having the same personnel problems. Even when personnel are available to transport a patient, often the emergency rooms are backed up, and the EMT staff must stay with the patient until they are admitted to the hospital. In some cases, this may be a very long time.

Councilmember Parker stated we can't have half of our fire department at the hospital for hours waiting for a patient to be admitted. If there are three on a shift and two are gone in the ambulance, where does that leave us.

Councilmember Hennings stated earlier Councilman Toles said the new contract takes care of the mechanical clause, but that does not address the fact that the ambulance has over 300,000 miles on it and could break down while in service.

Mayor Thomas stated a new engine was put in at 250,000 miles.

Councilmember Hennings stated, if we agreed, she felt it should only be for a trial period.

Councilmember Phillips suggested six months. We would need to check call times and see if the response time for the contracted ambulance service is affected.

Councilmember Hennings asked if we could put in an escape clause where we can cancel if things go the wrong way?

Councilmember Reaves stated she would like to see how long our personnel are tied up on these calls. She stated she would like to see a monthly log of calls and responses or no response, if the call was in or out of the city, and times and personnel involved in transport.

Attorney Hill stated he would work on this.

Mr. Dean Goforth stated the Avenu contracts on the agenda tonight are three-year contracts. He proposed licenses be brought in-house and sales taxes be collected by the State.

Councilmember Parker stated he voted to buy new software for the very reason of bringing this in house.

Discussion followed after which the City Clerk was directed to prepare a statement of annual receipts and collection costs.

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, April 3, 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	Councilmember Austin Phillips
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 March 20, 2023 meeting were presented for approval. Mayor Thomas stated on page four, the cost for the ambulance is \$600 per year, rather than per month. Councilmember Hennings moved the minutes be approved as amended, seconded by Councilmember Walker, and the motion carried with Councilmember Parker abstaining on the workshop session minutes.

The agenda was presented for approval. Councilmember Phillips asked if the Avenu contracts were all or nothing, and Attorney Hill replied it is five separate contracts. These contracts will be carried over until the next meeting. Councilmember Toles moved the agenda be approved, seconded by Councilmember Vinson, and the vote was unanimous.

Councilmember Toles asked for an update on the Senior Citizens. Parks Director Rick Hopkins stated they have raised \$30,000 for a bus. They have decided that the bus they have is adequate for their needs, and would like instead to add on to their building, extending it toward the ditch. They need a bigger kitchen and a separate room for the kiln. He stated he does not have a price yet. He has asked one contractor for a quote and will get others.

Councilmember Vinson asked about the possibility of getting a grant and using this money as the match.

Councilmember Toles stated he would like to see the estimate to knock out the wall and extend the building.

Councilmember Toles moved for unanimous consent to suspend the rules of procedure to allow for the immediate consideration of the Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday ordinance, seconded by Councilmember Vinson, and upon a roll call vote, the results were as follows:

Yeas: Councilmembers Toles, Vinson, Phillips, Hennings, Walker, Parker, and Reaves, and Mayor Thomas

Nays: None

Councilmember Toles moved Ordinance 2023-02 approving this sales tax holiday be approved, seconded by Councilmember Reaves, and upon a roll call vote, the results were as follows:

Yeas: Councilmembers Toles, Vinson, Phillips, Hennings, Walker, Parker, and Reaves, and Mayor Thomas

Nays: None

City Clerk Porter read a recommendation from Fire Chief Harvey for a fire sprinkler inspection on the City Hall Building as periodically required by code. The cost will be \$1,548.00. Councilmember Hennings moved this be approved, seconded by Councilmember Phillips, and the vote was unanimous.

An ordinance to allow for additional members on the Park and Recreation Board was presented. Councilmember Reaves moved for unanimous consent to suspend the rules of procedure to allow for the immediate consideration of this ordinance, seconded by Councilmember Vinson, and upon a roll call vote, the results were as follows:

Yeas: Councilmembers Toles, Vinson, Phillips, Hennings, Walker, Parker, and Reaves, and Mayor Thomas

Nays: None

Councilmember Vinson moved Ordinance 2023-03 approving additional members on the Park and Recreation Board be approved, seconded by Councilmember Toles, and upon a roll call vote, the results were as follows:

Yeas: Councilmembers Toles, Vinson, Phillips, Hennings, Walker, Parker, and Reaves, and Mayor Thomas

Nays: None

Councilmember Vinson stated he was proud of where we have come with our parks and with our Park Board. We have people coming to us and wanting to serve.

Councilmember Hennings moved Adam Lansdon be appointed to the Park Board, seconded by Councilmember Reaves, and the motion carried.

Councilmember Vinson moved Jeremy Steele be appointed to the Park Board, seconded by Councilmember Hennings, and the motion carried.

Attorney Hill asked that the Council consider going into an executive session to discuss pending litigation, an exception allowed by the Open Meetings Act (OMA). He stated he had prepared a letter for the City Clerk stipulating the meeting is allowed under OMA. He stated he expected the meeting to last about fifteen minutes and that no action would be taken upon the Council's return.

Councilman Toles moved the City Council go into an executive session to discuss pending litigation, seconded by Councilmember Reaves. And upon a roll call vote, the results were as follows:

Yeas: Councilmembers Toles, Vinson, Phillips, Hennings, Walker, Parker, and Reaves, and Mayor Thomas

Nays: None

The Council returned at 6:45 p.m.

Councilmember Hennings moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Councilmember Parker, and the vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Porter
City Clerk