

CITY OF SPRINGBORO
320 W. CENTRAL AVENUE, SPRINGBORO, OH

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2021

6:00 PM

CITY COUNCIL

John Agenbroad, Mayor
Janie Ridd, Deputy Mayor/Ward 1
Dale Brunner, Ward 2
Jack Hanson, Ward 3
Jim Chmiel, Ward 4
Stephen Harding, At Large
Becky Iverson, At Large

CITY STAFF

Chris Pozzuto, City Manager
Greg Shackelford, Assistant City Manager
Gerald McDonald, Law Director
Lori Martin, Clerk of Council

ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER. Mayor Agenbroad called the Springboro, Ohio City Council Work Session to order on Thursday, January 7, 2021 at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers at the Springboro Municipal Building, 320 W. Central Avenue, Springboro, Ohio.

ITEM 2. ATTENDANCE. Council: All present. **Staff:** Mr. Pozzuto, Mr. Shackelford, Mr. McDonald and Ms. Martin were present. Finance Director Jonathan Hudson was also present.

Mayor Agenbroad commented that the State of the City Address will be presented at tonight's Regular Meeting in video format. Mayor Agenbroad thanked Lori Martin, Clerk of Council, Maureen Russell-Hodgson, Community Relations Director, and Joe Mackenzie, Government Producer at MVCC, for their collaboration on the State of the City Address, which highlights the City's projects and accomplishments over the past year.

ITEM 3. LEGISLATIVE AGENDA. – Review legislative items slated for January 7.

No legislation was submitted for January 7.

ITEM 4. CITY MANAGER. – Issues/Reports.

Mr. Pozzuto made the following presentation regarding a Water Softening Plant: Initial Discussion & Proposal as follows: (Presentation slides shown below and filed with the minutes.)



**WATER SOFTENING PLANT
INITIAL DISCUSSION & PROPOSAL**



MAJOR RESIDENT ISSUES IN SPRINGBORO

- School Traffic
- High Speed Internet Choices
- Hard Water

WHY NOW?

- 2004 Water & Sewer Debt for expansion of both plants will be paid off two years early this year
 - Saving \$550,000 in interest to our residents
 - No remaining water & sewer debt
- Numerous communities in the area already soften, or are getting ready to soften their water:
 - Warren County (in process)
 - Miamiburg (in process)
 - West Carrollton (in process)
 - Vandalia
 - Wilmington
 - Piqua
 - Middletown

How This Benefits Residents & Businesses

- COULD eliminate the need for an in-home water softener
 - This all depends on just how "soft" residents want their water
- Typical annual cost of in-home softening
 - \$500-\$800 for new softener (good for approx. 8-10 years)
 - Salt costs - \$50-100 annually?
- Softening by the City will reduce lime build up in household piping & help with laundry and dishes
- Certain business processes could be assisted with the softening

Process

- Initial Analysis (4-6 months)
 - Where can / should the plant be located?
 - What other upgrades need to be made to existing facilities? (Sewer is affected as well)
- Design (12-18 months)
 - Bid Process to hire contractor
 - Further analysis of existing system
 - EPA input
- Construction (12-18 months)
 - EPA approval

POTENTIAL COSTS

- Initial Analysis - \$80,000
- Construction - \$12,000,000 - \$15,000,000
- Future Operation Costs - \$500,000 annually

Mr. Pozzuto began his presentation by commenting that staff is seeking Council's initial thoughts on the possibility of building a Water Softening Plant to help soften the City's water. Mr. Pozzuto further commented that the City consistently receives comments from residents concerning three major issues.

The first issue is school traffic; however, the City has been working over the past two years to rectify this puzzle and the last piece of that effort was installed yesterday. Mr. Pozzuto explained that if you travel down Mill Street heading west to go south on SR741 there is now a left turn arrow at the intersection, which will help restrict the east bound traffic on Mill Street during school traffic hours. The City will be publicizing the new left turn arrow at Mill Street and SR741 and how it will function. The turn signal will actuate mainly on school days or football game days. The signal will not activate until there are at least 100 feet of cars backed up to the intersection because they want to make sure that intersection still functions smoothly outside of school traffic times. Again, school traffic is one major issue that the City has mostly resolved.

The second issue that the City consistently receives comments on is the lack of high-speed internet service providers. The City recently entered into an agreement with Point Broadband, an internet service provider who will bring a new internet service option to the community. The project is anticipated to begin in the next two to three weeks. The City's portion of the project should be finished by June and Point Broadband is hoping to have their fiber extended to all neighborhoods in the City by the July/August timeframe. Again, high-speed internet service is another major issue that the City is close to resolving.

The third major issue that the City consistently receives comments on is hard water. Hard water has been an issue in Springboro for at least 20 years. The City has always been aware of this issue, and we have discussed and considered whether or not we should soften the water. The underlying issue was the City has always carried debt on the water and sewer plants. Mr. Pozzuto commented however that he is happy to report that the City is now in the position to pay off the water and sewer debt for both plant expansions this year, which will save the City \$550,000 in interest and leave no outstanding water and sewer debt. Mr. Pozzuto further commented that now that the City will be debt free, it would be a good time to think about water softening.

Mr. Brunner asked Mr. Pozzuto to clarify the interest savings on the debt i.e. does it include debt payments.

Mr. Pozzuto clarified that the savings only includes the interest that would have been paid over the next two years.

Mr. Pozzuto continued by commenting that many communities surrounding Springboro are starting to build their own water softening plants if they have not already. Warren County is currently building a water softening plant, Miamisburg and West Carrollton are also in the process, and other communities are already softening their water. Warren County's water softening project is reaching all the way to Clearcreek Township; therefore, in two years, Clearcreek Township will have softened water and the City will not.

Mr. Brunner asked if Clearcreek Township would pay into the water softening utility.

Mr. Pozzuto replied yes, township residents served by Warren County water would pay the county.

Mr. Pozzuto continued by commenting on how water softening would benefit residents and businesses. A water softening plant could eliminate the need for an in-home water softener, but that would depend on how soft people would want their water. Mr. Pozzuto explained that according to Water Operations Manager Terry Morris, the City's water is at 410 milligrams per liter of hardness and good soft water is at about 200 milligrams per liter. Therefore, we would have to decrease the level of limestone causing the hard water by approximately 200 milligrams. This level may not be soft enough for some people, who might want even softer water and would elect to keep their water softener. However, if the City were to soften the water, you really would no longer need a water softener. Mr. Pozzuto explained that, according to Terry Morris, we do need some level of hardness in the water.

Ms. Iverson commented in regard to residents who have invested in a water softener and if water softening might actually help them have better water.

Mr. Pozzuto commented that water softeners do not last forever and residents can continue to use them until they break, discontinue using them or keep them just in case they want even softer water. Probably 99.9% of the homes in Springboro have water softeners, and residents would need to be informed about water softener use with softened water.

Mr. Brunner asked if the City would be informing the public that they can achieve the level of water softness they want by using the softener e.g. if the City's water softness level is 200, they could achieve a softness level of 100 by using their water softener.

Mr. Pozzuto answered yes, that information would be part of the educational process in addition to whether or not additional softening would have detrimental effects on their water pipes. Mr. Pozzuto again stated that, according to Terry Morris, the optimum water softness is approximately 200, but some people prefer softer water.

Mayor Agenbroad commented that the hard water really takes a toll on water heaters, appliances, etc.

Mr. Pozzuto commented that water softening would reduce the lime build up and help pipes, laundry, etc. Mr. Pozzuto further commented that water softening would also help many of the City's businesses who use water in their operations such as Klosterman, General Dynamics and Sunstar. The City's hard water really takes a toll on companies' operating processes; therefore, they have to soften their water much more than a resident would in their home. City

water softening would help these companies save a lot of money by not having to use their water softening processes anymore or at least not as much. Again, water softening would help those companies with their operational costs, which is a good economic development benefit as well.

Mr. Pozzuto continued by stating that if Council were to decide that water softening is a service that the City wants to consider providing then we will have to do an initial analysis performed by a company that has expertise in this area. The consultant would spend about four to six months analyzing the City's water system and what it would take to build the water softening plant e.g. where should the plant be located, what other upgrades might have to be made to existing facilities including the sewer system, which would be affected as well. Mr. Pozzuto explained that the raw water would flow to the water treatment plant to be treated and then would go to the softening plant, a process which would actually add more product to the sewer plant. Both the water and sewer plants are running well under capacity; therefore, adding a new system should not have any effect on capacity. The City took the steps to increase the sewer and water plant production many years ago and is still in a good place now; therefore, plant capacity should not be an issue. However, the analysis would review the current system's needs to be sure it has everything needed to support a water softening plant. Once the analysis is finished and the location is determined, the project would move to the design phase, which would take 12 to 18 months. There would be a bid process to hire the contractor, further analysis of the system, and EPA input to make sure the project is on track for any approvals required by the agency. The construction phase would be approximately 12-18 months including EPA approvals during that phase. In total, the water softening project would be an approximate three to four year process meaning if the City moved forward today we would not have a water softening plant until 2024 or 2025.

Mr. Pozzuto further stated that the initial analysis would cost approximately \$80,000. Based on other water softening plants that have been built, such as in Miamisburg, Warren County and other comparable communities, the estimated cost to construct the water softening plant would be between \$12 and \$15 million. Mr. Pozzuto commented they are fairly sure \$15 million would be on the high side, but that number would be a place holder in case the City has to upgrade some of the water and sewer lines running from where the new facility would be located.

Ms. Iverson asked what the total debt was that the City carried on the water and sewer system.

Mr. Pozzuto confirmed that the total debt was in the range of \$32 million, which was the cost to upgrade the water and sewer plants.

Mr. Pozzuto continued by commenting that future operational costs would be approximately \$500,000 annually, which includes the cost of additional chemicals, treatment processes at the water and sewer plants and to amend the contract with Veolia (water operations management contract), who would probably have to hire at least one new employee to operate that plant. Mr. Pozzuto pointed out that if Council decides to pursue the possibility of constructing a water softening plant, the initial analysis would not obligate the City to anything; it would just determine whether the City could or could not do it. Mr. Pozzuto further commented that if Council decides to move forward with the analysis he would like to survey the community to see what residents would be willing to pay for the water softening plant through a water rate increase.

Mr. Pozzuto commented that everyone is familiar with how the county paid for the new jail; they raised the sales tax over a five-year period and then it sunsets. Once that debt is paid off, the rate increase sunsets and the sales tax rate goes back down. Staff is thinking about approaching this project in the same way. For example, if the City built the water softening plant, there would be a two-tiered rate on the water bill. One of the rates would be a capital improvement charge and the other rate would be the operational charge. The community would be informed that after a certain period of time the first charge would drop-off their water bill because the debt would be paid off, but the operational charge would remain. This would allow

the City to maintain rates properly, but not have people pay for a capital improvement they have already paid off. Mr. Pozzuto added that there are other options to pay for this project as well.

Mr. Pozzuto also commented that the City would randomly survey water customers to make sure residents have the appetite for this service. The City has always received complaints about hard water; however, if residents have to pay for the water softening their reaction to it might be different especially if they already have a water softener. Mr. Pozzuto again stated that the City often hears that residents want soft water, but we just want to make sure they are willing to pay for it before obligating the City to a \$15 million project that people do not want to pay for. Mr. Pozzuto commented that if Council is amenable, staff would like to begin with the initial analysis and possibly the survey in a month or two to see where the community stands regarding this issue. Once the City receives the results of the analysis and survey, we can decide from there whether to move forward or not on this project.

Mr. Brunner asked if other cities that have gone through this process have used the same type of surveys to measure their residents' interest.

Mr. Pozzuto replied yes, staff has been consulting with other communities regarding surveys and marketing materials and has visited existing water softening plants. They are planning future site visits to other plants as well. Mr. Pozzuto commented that the City is in an advantageous position as far as learning from the processes used by other communities who are building water softening plants.

Ms. Ridd asked if Mr. Pozzuto could find out what other communities have decided to charge residents for water softening to at least be in line with what other communities are charging.

Mr. Pozzuto replied yes, staff could gather that information.

Mr. Hanson asked, based on the numbers provided, what staff thinks the additional cost would be per water customer.

Mr. Hudson replied that a rough number would be \$10.00 to \$15.00 per month depending on whether the construction costs come in at \$10M or \$15M.

Mr. Hanson asked if that amount would include both the construction and operational costs.

Mr. Hudson explained that the additional charge would be for construction costs; the operating costs would potentially be only a few cents per 1,000 gallons.

Mr. Brunner asked if the cost is generally based on population or square miles of service area.

Mr. Pozzuto replied no; the cost is based on the number of households that pay for water service.

Mr. Pozzuto commented that the City is in a very favorable cash position presently in water and sewer capital; therefore, if the bids were to come in at \$13M, the City would not necessarily be taking out \$13M in debt. For example, at \$13M, the City might take out roughly \$7M or \$8M in debt. .

Mr. Hudson pointed out that part of the consideration would be the interest rates in 2-3 years when the City would take out the debt. Mr. Hudson added that rates right now are at historic lows. For example, the City issued a one-year note today at 0.75%. Mr. Hudson commented that in projecting the numbers for the water softening plant costs, he used a 2-3% interest rate because it is better to project a little higher and 0.75% to 3% is a big jump.

Mr. Pozzuto commented that interest rate considerations and cost savings could be further analyzed when the time comes specifically with respect to borrowing more or less based on the interest rates, but again the City is in a strong position to partially pay for this project if we decide to move forward.

Ms. Iverson commented that the businesses would pay for this as well, which would be a great data point.

Mr. Pozzuto reiterated that water softening would help many businesses even if it reduces half of that cost for them because they have to soften the water so much. This would reduce operational costs for businesses by reducing or eliminating the need to soften water, which would help immensely.

Ms. Ridd asked if the costs associated with the water softening plant (capital and operational) would be based on usage per home or would it be a flat rate across homes.

Mr. Hudson answered that they anticipate the capital being a flat rate and the operational being based on usage.

Mr. Chmiel asked approximately what size a plant like this would be, or what size are the plants they have looked at in other communities.

Mr. Pozzuto estimated that the plant might be 15,000 to 20,000 sq. ft. Mr. Pozzuto commented that he believes W. Carrollton's water softening plant is about that size with a slightly smaller population. Mr. Pozzuto further commented that a water softening plant would probably be close to the same size as the City's water plant.

Mr. Hanson asked if, since the businesses would realize substantial savings from having the water softening plant, would it be possible for them to pay a little more of the capital costs than the residents would.

Mr. Pozzuto answered that staff could look at that possibility, but the City does not separate costs now. Mr. Pozzuto explained that businesses pay more by virtue of the volume of their usage. Mr. Pozzuto commented that the cost breakdown and rate adjustments could be analyzed in different ways, as desired.

Mr. Brunner commented that he thinks surveying to see what people would pay for the service is the first step, but he thinks it is a great idea.

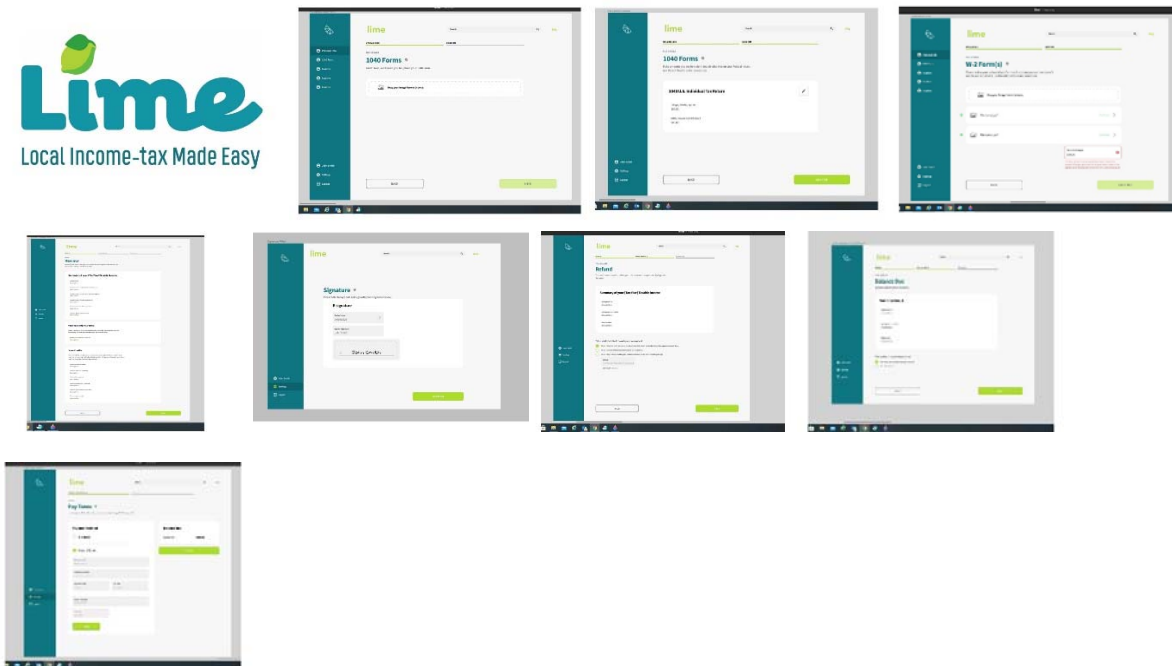
Mr. Pozzuto reiterated that hard water is one of the three issues the City hears about from residents. The City has tackled the first two, and it is time to tackle the third issue of hard water since water and sewer operations will be debt free.

Mr. Pozzuto confirmed that it was the general consensus of Council to move forward with the process by doing the initial analysis, which Development Director Elmer Dudas will head up, and conducting the survey regarding costs for water customers. Mr. Pozzuto stated that once staff receives the results of the analysis and survey, staff would reconvene the discussion with Council in about four to five months and go from there.

Mayor Agenbroad thanked Mr. Pozzuto for his presentation concerning this issue.

There was no further discussion regarding this item.

At this time, Mr. Hudson made the following presentation regarding the City's online income tax filing application called Lime (Local Income-tax Made Easy) as follows: (Presentation slides shown below and filed with the minutes.)



Mr. Pozzuto commented that Finance Director Jonathan Hudson, Assistant Finance Director Joannie Kingseed and Assistant Finance Director Beth Eaton have been doing an excellent job keeping this project on track for completion hopefully by this tax season.

Mr. Hudson began his presentation by commenting that the City's goal with this program is to make it easier for people to file their City income tax. The Lime application is like the City's version of Turbo Tax. Mr. Hudson commented that he would walk through the design of the application stating that much of the design work is finished and this is close to what the application would look like for an average resident.

Using the first page, the taxpayer would create an account. When you enter your address, the program will tell you if you live in Springboro or not. You start the filing process by answering a few questions to make sure you live in the City and then you are asked to upload your 1040/Federal Tax Return. If you click the question mark, the program will show you a picture of the document you need to upload. When you upload your 1040 form, the application will look at the 1040 and tell you what is applicable to Springboro. In the example, you have something from line 1 and line 8 that the program needs and it will ask you to verify if it is scanned correctly and matches your actual 1040.

Mr. Pozzuto pointed out that this program uses artificial intelligence by actually reading your tax form and knowing what you have and what you need to provide.

Mr. Hudson continued by commenting that this program is a step above normal OCR readers. The key to making this program work is this function, and this is what they are testing now to make sure it works properly.

Mr. Hudson continued by explaining that once you verify that the information on the 1040 is correct, based on that information the program knows you have income in line 1 and will ask

you to upload your W-2s. You can upload your forms in a variety of ways such as using your phone. The program will ask you to upload your W-2s until you have uploaded all of them. Once you are finished, the program will give you a summary to review. Obviously, some people have more complicated taxes and the program would walk them through those more complicated steps. The program will provide a summary of all of your taxes and all of the credits you have on file with the City already, and then the program will give you an option to sign your tax return if everything on the summary looks correct. The next page will let you know if you are due a refund and give you the option of either rolling it forward or receiving a check or having it partially rolled forward and partially returned by check or direct deposit. If you have a balance due you can pay now or return to pay it later. You can also pay by e-check inside the system or pay by credit card. Again, the program will display your balance due and offer multiple payment options. Once you file, you will receive an e-mail confirmation. Mr. Hudson commented that the idea of the program is that if you can upload a picture to Facebook you can file your taxes.

Ms. Iverson confirmed that the user could upload a photo from their phone.

Mr. Hudson replied yes, you can upload pictures to the box from your phone. Mr. Hudson added however that they are trying to discourage people from uploading pictures because they are much harder to scan, but the program will accept a picture.

Mr. Hudson continued by explaining that part of the registration process will determine if you have no taxable income to the City and an alert will pop up stating that based on the information you provided the program thinks you might be retired or just own rental property in the City, which is not taxable to the City. The program will then instruct the user to contact the City for a Retiree Form to complete and submit and you would never have to contact the City again regarding taxes. In short, the program will help steer people away who are not required to pay taxes to the City anymore. Mr. Hudson commented that they are trying to keep the program simple, modern, clean and easy to use. Mr. Hudson further commented that they really like the help button in the program, which assists people in understanding what documents they need to upload by displaying a picture. Mr. Hudson emphasized that when you begin the filing process, the program asks if you have filed your federal tax return because the federal tax return is required by state law to be submitted with your local tax return. If you wish to file your local income tax prior to your federal income tax, you would have to file directly with the Tax Department; you would not be able to use this program.

Mr. Brunner asked where this program is hosted.

Mr. Hudson answered that the program would be hosted on its own server at the City on a segregated, safe, secure and protected server. Mr. Hudson commented that the host server uses the same encryption level and security that hospitals use to comply with all of the HIPPA requirements. This is built in the same way a hospital builds its security.

Mr. Brunner asked if this type of program is being used by other cities.

Mr. Hudson commented that no other community in Ohio is using a system like this that they know of.

Mr. Hudson further commented that they have built this system on what is called a white-label allowing the City to customize the application. Mr. Hudson explained that now that Ohio has uniform tax laws, outside of courtesy withholding and rates, we can share this application with other cities for a nominal fee or a recoupment of our costs to use it. The logos and tax rates can be changed allowing other cities to be able to customize the application for their purposes. In essence, the City will be able to license this application to other cities to use.

Mr. Pozzuto stated that the City is going to copyright the application.

Mr. Hudson continued by stating that there is a company called RITA that has an online filing system, but it is limited to filling in the boxes of a blank form i.e. the user must know what forms and information to provide. The Lime application simply requires you to upload your federal tax return and W-2s, and the program does the work for you.

Mr. Brunner confirmed that the City would only host its own system and not others.

Mr. Hudson confirmed that the City would only host its own system. If other cities choose to host this application, Springboro would host the login for their admin side, but the data would be hosted and maintained by the individual city. Again, Springboro would only host the login credentials for the admin side.

Mr. Hanson asked if there would be a processing fee if people use the credit card option to pay their taxes.

Mr. Hudson replied that the City would absorb the processing fee. Mr. Hudson explained that they are using a company called Stripe, which is used for many online payments. Stripe also hosts some of the payment processing at the golf course; therefore, the City will receive the same volume rate combined for both that we receive at the golf course, which will really lower the rate. They are hoping the rate will be approximately 2%. The City absorbs processing fees now, but this will be a lower rate.

Mr. Pozzuto commented that the City is trying to get people to pay their taxes in any convenient way possible and is not going to charge the taxpayer a fee on top of that tax payment, which is why the City has never charged fees for credit transactions. The City wants to make it convenient for you to pay your water bill, taxes, etc. and not add fees to your payment when you use a credit card.

Mr. Harding commented that many cities absorb the credit card fees for water bills for example, but if you are paying your taxes you pay those fees because you owe that money from your income.

Mr. Pozzuto reiterated that the City has always absorbed the fees for credit card transactions and does not pass it on to the customer.

Mr. Hudson commented that, when it comes to the balance due at the end of the year, most of the people using this system will not owe a lot of money because most of it is withheld from their paycheck and sent by ACH via their employer. When they are paying, it is usually taxes on income from odd jobs they have such as selling on e-bay, etc. where they might make an extra few thousand dollars and owe \$50, \$100 or \$150. Very rarely does a taxpayer owe the City thousands of dollars and use a credit card to pay; that is very uncommon.

Mr. Pozzuto asked how many people would the City be able to capture in this first version of the application.

Mr. Hudson answered that they have randomly selected old returns to test the system and based on their research the City should be able to capture approximately 75% of residents i.e. 75% of the taxpayers should be able to file using the system the first year. If a resident has a more complicated return because they are part of a partnership, etc., they would probably not be able to use this system the first year; however, the goal is to eventually capture those users. The first year you move into the City you would not be able to use the system because if you owe taxes to different cities it complicates the process. Therefore, they ask that new residents file their first City tax return directly with the tax office.

In addition, the Tax Department will still offer appointments this year to avoid crowds and have Zoom appointments available as well instead of talking over the phone. Mr. Hudson commented that on tax day two years ago, they had 50 people lined up in the vestibule waiting to file in the tax office and they are trying to avoid that situation by encouraging people to make appointments to come in early, make a Zoom appointment or talk to the tax office over the phone. They are trying to give people multiple ways to file their taxes and they hope to launch the online program for taxpayers to use this year.

Mr. Hudson continued by commenting that they will probably be seeking volunteers to test the program and should have a finished product available for testing by the end of February. They are planning to run prior year completed returns that they know are correct through the system and make sure it is producing the same results they gave people on paper. They will then do another limited release asking people to test their 2020 taxes who, for example, just have W-2 income, which is simple and straight forward to test. Finally, they will extend the release to people who have more complicated tax returns. They are hoping to have all of that testing completed by the end of March. They will not have a huge release of the application this year, as it is best to have a tiered release, but they are pretty confident they will have some people file their returns using the application this year. Mr. Hudson further commented that this application will be popular with people, and they do not want to overwhelm the system the first year with respect to volume. This application will be linked to the City's website and hosted on its own server. Mr. Hudson pointed out that throughout the year you might have two people use it per day, but for two weeks out of the year you would have 1,000 people per day use it. The system will need to be able to accept that volume on those days because they cannot have the system go down in April.

Ms. Iverson commented that people have to submit their federal tax return to use the system, and she asked if taxpayers would be given an extension until April 30.

Mr. Hudson commented that the deadline extension of April 30 has been made permanent. Mr. Hudson explained that maintaining the April 15 deadline was creating a bottleneck because people were waiting until they submitted their federal tax return and then rushing into the City Building on April 15 to file their City taxes.

Mr. Harding asked if professional tax preparers or accountants would be able to use the new system.

Mr. Hudson explained that when individuals register in the system they will have two-factor authentication credentials; therefore, if a person wants their accountant to prepare their taxes they would simply share their login information with that person. Later versions of the application will have a preparer login to allow them to prepare taxes for other people, but that is not included in this first version.

Mr. Hudson also explained that people make estimated payments throughout the year and this option will be added to a later version of the application as well. The estimated payment option will allow people to log into their account to make an estimated payment without having to visit the tax office. People can also log into the system before they pay to check their balance for credits they might have carried over from a previous year or simply have forgotten about. Mr. Hudson commented that they are trying to include as much as possible to easily walk the user through in this application.

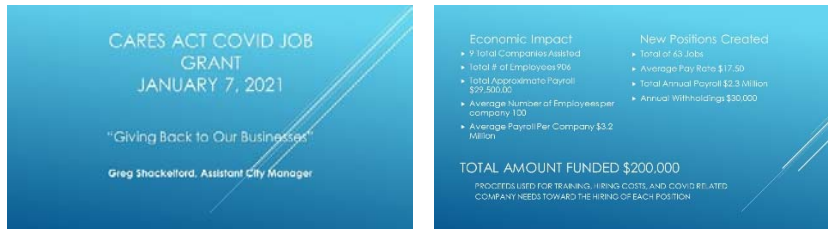
Mr. Pozzuto reiterated that there would be a slow roll out of the application this year as the City tests the new system in phases.

Mr. Hudson finally commented that they are trying to make the taxpaying experience as simple as possible with this new program.

Mayor Agenbroad thanked Mr. Hudson for his presentation concerning this project.

There was no further discussion regarding this item.

At this time, Mr. Shackelford made the following presentation regarding the City's Employer Grant Program funded by the CARES Act: (Presentation slides shown below and filed with the minutes.)



Mr. Shackelford commented that the City has received some tremendous feedback and thanks from the business community in response to the Employer Grant Program, which was funded by CARES Act monies. Mr. Shackelford commended City Manager Chris Pozzuto and Finance Director Jonathan Hudson for initiating this program. This program allowed companies the opportunity to use CARES Act money to offset the economic impact of COVID-19.

The City appropriated \$200,000 of the CARES Act money it received to fund this program. The program was publicized through the City's website, social media and direct e-mails to businesses. In addition, the City's Business Retention Specialist Nick Motto shared this opportunity with businesses during his site visits. Ultimately, nine companies applied for the grant program and maxed out the potential grant of \$20,000 per company. Ideally, the monies were to be used for any COVID-19 related hiring needs. Additional monies were granted to bring the total amount of grant funding to \$200,000.

The impact of the program was significant as outlined in the slide. More than 900 employees, averaging approximately 100 employees per company, were assisted through this program with the average payroll per company of \$3.2 million. A total of 63 jobs were created adding another \$2.3 million in payroll this year resulting in additional withholdings of approximately \$30,000 per year. Mr. Shackelford pointed out that if the City had used its own monies to fund the program, it would have resulted in an approximate seven-year return, but in this case the money was funded through the CARES Act realizing a much more immediate return. The City received many e-mails and compliments from the businesses that participated in the program; they were very appreciative of this opportunity.

Mr. Brunner commented that it has been a huge benefit to the community to have a program like this to get people back to work. None of us could have ever expected the effects that this pandemic would have on our businesses and only a certain number of cities are even considering this type program. He further commented that Warren County, Montgomery County and the City of Dayton have offered a program like this, but other cities similar in size to Springboro are not looking at a program like this. Mr. Brunner reiterated that this program is an amazing opportunity for our businesses.

Mr. Shackelford commented that he and Mr. Pozzuto have always been helpful to other communities and they shared information about this program with several jurisdictions. Some of those communities opted to look into it, but not many carried out the program. Mr. Shackelford added that the other positive aspect of this program is the different industries that were represented such as manufacturing, service, retail, a local private school, etc. The companies represented by this grant program were very diverse, and staff is proud of what the City accomplished through this program.

Mr. Brunner commented that City staff has done an unbelievable job utilizing the CARES Act monies in addition to their efforts to seek additional CARES Act funding as it became available.

Mr. Pozzuto commented that it has been a great team effort and thanked Mr. Shackelford for administrating the program.

Mayor Agenbroad thanked Mr. Shackelford for his presentation concerning this program.

There was no further discussion regarding this item.

ITEM 5. CLERK OF COUNCIL. – Issues/Reports.

Calendar Events: Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday observed Monday, January 18; whereby, the City Offices will be closed. In addition, the next City Council Work Session will be held on Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 6:00 PM followed by the Regular Meeting at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers. The Finance Committee will meet on January 21 at 5:30 PM in Council Chambers.

Board of Zoning Appeals Appointment: Ms. Martin commented that City Council approved annual committee appointments on December 17. Committee volunteer Mike Thompson was appointed to the Planning Commission leaving his seat on the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) vacant. There were no additional applicants for the BZA seat; however, Ms. Martin stated that she received correspondence from Springboro resident Jerry Ferris expressing his interest and willingness to fulfill the unexpired term on the BZA.

There were no objections to nominating Jerry Ferris to serve on the BZA for an unexpired term ending December 31, 2022. Council will consider a motion to approve this appointment at tonight's Regular Meeting under Other Business.

(Council and Committee meeting schedules and changes or cancellations are being posted. Details regarding meetings held via video conference will continue to be posted on the City's website under Springboro News.)

ITEM 6. CITY COUNCIL. – Issues/Reports.

Deputy Mayor Ridd – No reports.

Mr. Hanson – No reports.

Mr. Brunner – No reports.

Mr. Harding – No reports.

Ms. Iverson – No reports.

Mr. Chmiel – No reports.

Mayor Agenbroad – Mayor Agenbroad commented that, in addition to a motion to appoint Jerry Ferris to the BZA, there would be a motion to donate a police vehicle no longer used or needed by the City to another community in need of a vehicle at tonight's Regular Meeting under Other Business.

ITEM 7. ADJOURNMENT. With no further discussion, Mayor Agenbroad adjourned the Thursday, January 7, 2021 City Council Work Session at approximately 7:45 PM.

CITY OF SPRINGBORO
320 W. CENTRAL AVENUE, SPRINGBORO, OH

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2021

7:00 PM

CITY COUNCIL

John Agenbroad, Mayor
Janie Ridd, Deputy Mayor/Ward 1
Dale Brunner, Ward 2
Jack Hanson, Ward 3
Jim Chmiel, Ward 4
Stephen Harding, At Large
Becky Iverson, At Large

CITY STAFF

Chris Pozzuto, City Manager
Greg Shackelford, Assistant City Manager
Gerald McDonald, Law Director
Lori Martin, Clerk of Council

ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER. Mayor Agenbroad called the Springboro, Ohio City Council Regular Meeting of Thursday, January 7, 2021 to order at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers at the Springboro Municipal Building, 320 W. Central Avenue, Springboro, Ohio.

ITEM 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. Mayor Agenbroad led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation by Council Member Becky Iverson.

As a reminder to the public, Mayor Agenbroad stated that City Council is following the recommended social distancing guidelines and is requiring masks during meetings in an effort to keep everyone safe and healthy and help curb the spread of COVID-19.

ITEM 3. ROLL CALL. Agenbroad, **Present**; Brunner, **Present**; Chmiel, **Present**; Hanson, **Present**; Harding, **Present**; Iverson, **Present**; Ridd, **Present**. Staff: Mr. Pozzuto, Mr. Shackelford, Mr. McDonald and Ms. Martin were present. Community Relations Director Maureen Russell-Hodgson was also present.

ITEM 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: THE MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 17, 2020.

Mayor Agenbroad presented the minutes for additions/corrections. No additions/corrections.

Mayor Agenbroad called for a motion to approve the Minutes.

Mr. Harding motioned. Ms. Ridd seconded the motion.

No discussion.

VOTE: Iverson, Abstain; Agenbroad, Yes; Chmiel, Yes; Hanson, Yes; Harding, Yes; Brunner, Yes; Ridd, Yes. [Approved]

ITEM 5. PRESENTATIONS: STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS – MAYOR JOHN AGENBROAD.

Mayor Agenbroad presented the 2021 State of the City Address in video format during the meeting. Formal text is as follows:

**STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS
MAYOR JOHN AGENBROAD
JANUARY 7, 2021**

AS MAYOR OF SPRINGBORO, I would like to begin my State of the City Address by first commenting on how uniquely challenging this past year has been for all of us, as individuals, as a community, and as a nation. COVID-19 continues to be a threat to our health, safety and welfare, but I remain optimistic thanks to efforts made by our hardworking and resilient City Council and Staff Members to respond to this pandemic, and the great citizens of our community for coming together to support one another. Although we are six feet apart, it is obvious we are closer than ever.

COVID DOMINATES 2020 None of us could have imagined the impact COVID-19 would have on our families, businesses, schools, hospitals, elderly care facilities, and so much more. We were faced with loss of employment, preparing our children to safely attend school or learn from home, businesses struggling to keep their doors open with COVID restrictions in place, and simply trying to find ways to stay connected and continue to function. We have learned to protect ourselves by physically distancing and wearing masks to slow the spread of the virus in our country and communities, and yet we have mourned the loss of too many lives taken by this pandemic.

Our community's efforts to follow the state's orders and guidelines and take all of the precautionary measures to fight COVID-19 have been extraordinary. We are proud of the ways we as community leaders have supported our residents and businesses and are inspired by the many selfless, compassionate gestures made by friends, neighbors, volunteer groups and the frontline workers in healthcare, education, emergency, safety and public services, who put the safety and needs of our community before their own.

Your City Staff continued to provide a high level of service to the community while looking for every possible way to support and keep our community healthy through this pandemic. This was achieved through community partnerships and understanding the importance of working together to address community needs.

This past year obviously presented challenges for our businesses including state restrictions that would dramatically affect their income. At the onset of the pandemic, the City in partnership with the Springboro Chamber of Commerce immediately set up the Small Business Stimulus Program to help local businesses stay afloat. In total, \$106,000 was granted to 38 Springboro businesses to help them continue to operate. In addition, City workers helped the Springboro Community Assistance Center with food transportation and assisted hundreds of residents with free yard waste, recyclables, and bulk item drop-off at the City Building when those pick-ups were suspended due to COVID-19. The City coordinated with local churches and the Springboro Community Assistance Center to create a community resource list for outreach, food and errands for residents in need and posted resource lists on our website and social media of restaurants offering carry-out and grocery store hours and restrictions. We also teamed up with Warren County Community Services and the United Way of Warren County to distribute senior citizen care packages. Additionally, we extended the City's tax filing deadline and made virtual tax appointments available for taxpayers needing assistance and additional time to file.

CARES Act funding helped us address needs created by the pandemic specifically in the areas of economic assistance, public safety, PPE and tech equipment, and we decided it would be imperative to share the monies within the Springboro community. During the September 3 Council Meeting, the City presented a check to Springboro City Schools for \$100,000 of these eligible funds to upgrade technology in the schools and provide Chromebooks and other supplies to students to help facilitate remote learning to comply with COVID-19 precautions. The City also continued to support local businesses to by creating an Employer Grant Program to help mid to large sized businesses coping with their ability to retain employees or even those that may have had to increase their workforce to respond to the demands created by COVID-19. Through this program, nine businesses received a total of \$200,000 in grant monies to help offset the economic impact of the pandemic. We are encouraged by how we, as a community, have to come together and we feel fortunate to be able to support the community in meaningful ways throughout this pandemic.

LIVING IN SPRINGBORO One thing I can never say enough is that Springboro is one of the best cities in Ohio to live, work, play and raise a family. Our city continues to be highly rated in all aspects of community life including great neighborhoods and schools and exceptional safety, services and amenities that now include a splash park and a Performing Arts Center. In fact, Springboro was named 2020's 5th Best Place To Raise a Family in Ohio according to a study by the leading personal finance web outlet, WalletHub. The study compared more than 180 cities using key indicators of ideal family conditions like Family Life & fun, Education, Health & Safety, Affordability and Socio-economics. Once again, Springboro was identified as one of the most family friendly places in Ohio scoring strongly across these quality of life factors.

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It is also important to us to measure Springboro's success on a local level. Since 2008, the City has conducted a Citizen Satisfaction Survey every three years with the help of Miami University's Center for Public Management and Regional Affairs. Last year's survey invited approximately 1,000 randomly selected households to rate their level of satisfaction as a resident of Springboro and with City services and quality of life aspects in our community. Even though the survey period was curbed by the onset of COVID-19, the response rate of 35% was slightly higher than 2017 with residents from 342 households responding to the survey.

The City's overall satisfaction rating from the 2020 survey is equal to or better than the findings in 2017, and indicated that 97% of the residents surveyed were "Satisfied" and the greater percentage were "Very Satisfied" living in Springboro! Satisfaction levels are consistently high regardless of the length of residency and half of the survey respondents think Springboro has become a better place to live in the past five years. Characteristics such as small-town feel, community spirit, appealing neighborhoods and safety contributed to the high ratings with satisfaction levels increasing in areas of public safety, parks and street maintenance. This is historically the Center's highest rating for communities surveyed, and we thank you for this vote of confidence!

IN FINANCE The City again received a 100% clean audit from the State Auditor last year for our consistent excellence in fiscal policies, practices and accountability. In 2020, the state instituted the new Sunshine Law Star Rating System (StaRS) to monitor transparency in government by testing a local government's compliance with Ohio's Sunshine Laws. We are excited to share that the City received a 4-Star rating, the highest achievement in open and transparent government. Special recognition is owed to our Finance Director Jonathan Hudson and City Records Manager Lori Martin for their diligence in exceeding these state requirements. Our goal is to maintain this standard of excellence in all aspects of our local government on behalf of our community.

Springboro's financial outlook for 2021 remains on solid ground despite the negative impacts COVID-19 has had on the economy. This year's budget focuses on core priorities keeping in mind the economic uncertainties 2021 may bring due to the pandemic. These priorities include maintaining the City's operational excellence thanks to staff and all of the great services they provide in the areas of Public Safety, Infrastructure, Economic Development and Quality of Life.

Overall, the City's approach is cautious with respect to revenue and expenditure projections heading into the New Year. City Council approved the 2021 budget in November and total budgeted expenses were cut by approximately 10% not knowing how COVID-19 will affect future revenue. All 45 funds reflect a total of \$63.9 million in budgeted expenditures for capital, operations and services with a very conservative year-end projection in the total fund balance of \$30.2 million. Our General Fund, which pays for the majority of the City's administrative, safety, service and development expenses, is estimated to carry a balance of \$4.2 million with \$14.4 million in budgeted expenses. With reserve balances within the recommended range of 30-50% of expenditures, the City is in the position to draw from those reserves if necessary before needing to generate additional revenue by raising fees or taxes—our tax rate has not increased since 1988.

Total income tax revenue held steady last year meeting projections by year-end, which is a very favorable outcome considering local economies overall. The City always budgets conservatively on the revenue side and is projecting a roughly 7% decrease in income tax revenue this year as a safety measure in light of the pandemic. With the exception of mainly income tax, the City's budget is anticipated to remain relatively flat in 2021. Notably, our water and sewer fund balances remain strong enough to continue the current rate freeze and still adequately fund operating costs for those services.

We applaud our staff's efforts to keep our primary government functions at the properly funded levels and continuing to focus on providing quality public services to our residents.

IN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS Our Capital Improvement Program (CIP) helps us plan and budget for our city's immediate and future needs in areas such as streets, infrastructure, recreational and community development. The 2021-2025 program proposes a \$23.2 million capital investment in our community and addresses two general areas of expenditures, the protection of existing assets such as facilities and infrastructure and the construction of new public facilities, including information technology, to improve public safety, service delivery, and quality of life for our citizens. The 5-year CIP has decreased \$1.5 million or approximately 6% from the previous year and capital spending is down this year \$2.8 million over 2020. Although, the 2021 program has been reduced mirroring the budget cuts, it will continue to support core improvements such as street resurfacing as well as other important programs that improve our safety, welfare and general environment.

In 2020, the City completed several transportation projects including the resurfacing of S. Main Street and the addition of decorative crosswalks at all six intersections in our historic downtown making a dramatic improvement to our south corridor. In addition, approximately 1.2 miles of Lytle Five Points and Yankee Roads were resurfaced and work included the addition of a pedestrian crossing island and bike lanes as part of the continuation of Springboro's bike and pedestrian plan. Approximately five miles of roadway improvements were completed in 2020 including the resurfacing of 10 neighborhood streets and the City is proposing to resurface 21 streets during this year's resurfacing and sidewalk repair program. In addition, the City was awarded approximately \$4.5 million in Federal Safety Funding Grants to complete three traffic improvement projects over the next several years to improve safety and traffic flow. The first project involves replacing the existing traffic signal scopes at the nine intersections along W. Central Avenue

and N. Main Street with radar, a more reliable technology that can detect vehicles as they approach the intersection and more accurately control the signal timing. The other two projects involve a dual left turn lane along W. Central Avenue approaching southbound I-75 and improvements at the Remick Boulevard intersection to include a right turn lane eastbound onto Remick. We appreciate the Warren County Transportation Improvement District's assistance in obtaining 100% of the funding for these projects.

Progress continues on our broadband fiber network initiative to bring high-speed internet services to neighborhoods throughout Springboro. The City has collaborated with the Warren County Port Authority to finance the construction costs of the infrastructure needed to bring new private Internet Service Providers (ISPs) into the Springboro market creating competition, innovation and potentially lower prices in the realm of high-speed internet service for our residents and businesses. Private ISPs would lease or purchase the underground conduit from the City to run their own fiber optic lines to individual homes. This \$2.4 million investment in technology infrastructure will become a valuable asset in attracting new businesses and helping existing businesses and our community prepare for smarter, faster technologies. We see this as an excellent opportunity for our residents and economic growth within the City, and we would like to recognize City Manager Chris Pozzuto, IT Director Matt Lang, Finance Director Jonathan Hudson and the Warren County Port Authority for helping to launch this exciting project. We anticipate construction to be finished by this summer.

IN PARKS AND RECREATION Springboro now has nine beautiful parks that feature a variety of amenities including an amphitheater, walking trails, turf fields and a brand new fitness court made possible by a grant from the National Fitness Foundation.

Kacie Jane Park is our newest park featuring an extremely popular splash pad, which opened in 2019 thanks to a generous donation from Springboro's Hausfeld Family in memory of their loved ones Kacie and Tom Hausfeld. This past summer we opened Phase II of Kacie Jane Park with two new playgrounds and an interactive musical play area. The City's financial partnership with Clearcreek Township to support the park's operations and maintenance ensures it will be a place for our residents to enjoy for many years to come.

Springboro's recreational facilities also include Heatherwoode Golf Course. Superior course conditions, amenities and customer service has positioned Heatherwoode among the most highly rated public courses in the region exceeding market standards for a quality golfing experience.

Twenty-twenty was a landmark year for Heatherwoode. Not only did the City realize top earnings on the golf course last year by maximizing the number of rounds played in one year reaching 40,000, but also we are happy to report that the City paid off the debt it has carried on Heatherwoode since 1999. Pursuing opportunities to reduce interest rates since the original bonds and an early pay off option resulted in a total savings of \$492,000.00. We now own the flagship of our City's many great amenities and appreciate the level of excellence that Heatherwoode staff operates and maintains our golf course.

We also pride ourselves in bringing the community together for events including concerts, festivals and fireworks. It has been challenging for communities to offer these events with COVID-19 restrictions in place; however, the City took the steps necessary to make sure we could safely move forward with some of the popular programs we offer to our residents like our summer concert series. The 2020 concerts were a big hit according to the many residents who attended or watched the concerts live from our website. We were able to host seven out of the 10 scheduled concerts thanks to a tremendous effort by our Park Board members and staff to put all of the necessary precautions in place recommended by our state and county health department to ensure everyone's health and safety was a priority. We are glad so many of you had the opportunity to get out and enjoy the concerts as well as our annual fireworks display, co-sponsored by Springboro Schools and Clearcreek Township, and other events like Bike the Boro and Boro BBQ Fest. Again, thank you to our Park Board and staff for all of the effort they put into coordinating these events for our community to enjoy this past year.

IN COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Springboro is always open for business and continues to welcome new companies to our 500 plus business community. The City also supports economic growth by participating in regional development initiatives like BusinessFirst!, an intergovernmental program focused on business retention and expansion in local jurisdictions. The program connects member communities to more than 80 resource partners offering job training, low interest business loans and more to help our local businesses grow and expand job opportunities. These programs go hand-in-hand with our efforts to build relationships with our businesses by dedicating staff and resources to making sure the City is doing everything possible to be a partner in their success.

Notwithstanding the effects of COVID-19 on the economy, approximately 132,000 sq. ft. of business expansion and redevelopment projects were approved by our Planning Commission throughout the community in 2020. As the City was welcoming Warped Wing in August, construction began on 13,000 sq. ft. of additional commercial space at Wright Station to house a luxury nail salon, Cassano's Pizza and several other new tenants. To date, three of the potential seven commercial building sites have been constructed in the development.

Last year, the City received approval to establish a DORA (Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area). The DORA allows patrons to purchase alcoholic beverages from a designated DORA establishment and carry them within a defined area at Wright Station. DORA establishments include Warped Wing, Cassano's, Heroes and the Performing Arts Center. The City plans for Wright Station to be a destination where people can enjoy food, drinks and entertainment

and has added free public WIFI for patrons of the DORA and other Wright Station amenities. Costs associated with the WIFI utility were covered by CARES Act funding and plans are to extend WIFI service to the downtown area and City parks in the future to allow residents to work, learn and relax remotely.

Several businesses in the western portion of the City developed significant expansions in operations and warehousing and most recently plans were approved for the redevelopment of the Kroger site along State Route 73. Kroger plans to construct a 90,000 sq. ft. store on the Kmart portion of the site. The existing 56,000 sq. ft. Kroger building will be reserved for new tenants. The City has been working with Kroger over the past two years to rehabilitate the former K-mart location, and the new store is anticipated to open in late 2021.

Much of the growth of our local economy over the past year was covered in a feature article "Spotlight on Springboro" in the Dayton Business Journal. The article highlighted community initiatives and recent investments made in commercial, retail and industrial businesses in Springboro. Our Springboro Chamber of Commerce also reported adding 100 new members since the organization relocated its offices to the Performing Arts Center in 2019 and helped us cut the ribbon on at least 15 new businesses or expansions over the past year. "Spotlight on Springboro" has brought our City regional attention for the third consecutive year! We would like to thank Assistant City Manager Greg Shackelford for the time and effort he has dedicated to these and other economic development programs in our community.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE Springboro has a variety of citizen boards and commissions appointed by Council that focus on specific areas of community development. We rely on the support and leadership of these committee volunteers to help us implement many special projects and programs that shape our community and we are grateful for their continuing dedication and service.

Board and commission highlights from 2020 include the Architectural Review Board's (ARB) selection of three recipients of our annual Historic Preservation Awards. The awards program has been recognizing citizens for contributions in both historic building restoration and preservation leadership since 2000. Awards were presented to John Peeler for his long-term stewardship of 405 South Main Street first restored in 1972 and Charlie Shaffer for his work as a Springboro Historical Society Trustee to further engage the public's interest in Springboro's rich heritage through programs and events. The ARB also honored longtime Springboro Historian Don Ross with an award for his work on public educational programs offered through the Historical Society and being among the Society's founders. In addition, the ARB has approved nearly \$150,000 in Historic Preservation Grants since the grant program was initiated in 2017 to help fund the restoration of our historic buildings. Supporting these preservation projects has made a positive impact over a substantial portion of the district by protecting its historic integrity and stimulating further investment in the downtown area.

Springboro's Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee presented the City's Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan to Council for approval last July. Committee members worked with a consultant and citizens to develop the priorities and recommendations in the second phase of the plan including expansion of the existing bicycle and pedestrian network and more family-friendly routes and recreational options such as multi-use off-road trails. With the newly updated plan adopted, the City will be able to obtain state grants for the plan's continued implementation beginning with the development of a multi-use trail from Clearcreek Park to Hazelwoods Park.

Last year, City Council appointed a committee of nine community leaders to review the City's Master Plan, which will be used as a guide for Springboro's long-range growth, development and redevelopment. The review process began last fall using a community survey to gather public input, and more than 400 residents responded to the survey. The City selected MKSK of Columbus to facilitate the review process and work with the Master Plan Committee over the next year to complete the project. Springboro's original Master Plan was developed in 1998 and revised in 2009. The plan has been an essential tool in the management of our community's development for the past two decades.

COMMUNITY SAFETY Community safety is a core service provided by the City's exceptional police force of 21 uniformed police officers, a command staff, detectives unit, and communications center that received approximately 16,000 calls for service in 2020. The Springboro Police Department, led by Chief Jeff Kruithoff, focuses on service-oriented policing and is committed to the safety and protection of our citizens.

Our Police Department provides programs and services to help us protect our community including crime prevention tools such as 'Boro Street Watch, which allows residents to register their home security cameras with the Police Department to aid in deterring crime, and a police mobile app to provide a more convenient way to report crime and receive safety information. Our Police Officers also meet with residents to address questions and concerns regarding community safety. Programs like these along with the department's presence on social media helps to foster more community-oriented safety by staying connected with our Police Department.

Our Police Officers also participate in regional law enforcement through agencies such as the Warren County Drug Task Force and the Miami Valley Tactical Crime Suppression Unit, which aid in investigations, policing and sharing costs for specialized equipment and training.

The Springboro Police Department serves our community in the areas of school safety and community outreach that continue to make a positive impact in the community. Our department provides two full-time School

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Resource Officers funded in partnership with Springboro Schools and the Springboro D.A.R.E. program to maintain a safe and healthy environment in our school community. In addition, our Police Officers sponsor the Operation Santa Program, which provides holiday meals, gifts and necessities for families with children in need in our community each December. We would like to express our gratitude to everyone in the community who has supported this program for the past 23 years!

The newest outreach program began when Blue, our police comfort dog, joined the department in 2019. Blue provides a special service to the community by visiting schools and nursing homes, attending community events, and providing comfort and reassurance to individuals experiencing a crisis or distress. Blue celebrated his first birthday in 2020 and is often seen greeting people at our Police Department with his welcoming and calm presence.

Our Police Department works hard to keep Springboro among the top 10 safest rated cities in Ohio. We thank our officers for all of the great safety and welfare services they provide to our community.

ON A FINAL NOTE, many thanks to our management staff, department directors and employees for making Springboro a leader in programs and services that positively impact our businesses, schools and residents. We appreciate all that you have accomplished this past year and your willingness to rise to the challenges created by COVID-19. We have emerged from 2020 better prepared to respond to the uncertainty of what lies ahead in the coming year.

It is an immense honor to serve this great community, and I thank my colleagues Deputy Mayor Jim Chmiel and Council Members Dale Brunner, Jack Hanson, Stephen Harding, Becky Iverson and Janie Ridd for their unity and teamwork. Please accept my very best wishes for your health, safety and wellbeing as we welcome a new year together! #stayconnectedspringboro

– Mayor John Agenbroad

Mayor Agenbroad thanked Lori Martin, Clerk of Council, Maureen Russell-Hodgson, Community Relations Director and Joe Mackenzie, Government Producer at MVCC for their work on the production of the State of the City Address. Mayor Agenbroad commented that we have a lot to be proud of in Springboro thanks to City Council, Staff and all of our residents.

This concluded the 2021 State of the City Address by Mayor John Agenbroad.

ITEM 6. LEGISLATION: No Legislation was submitted for January 7.

ITEM 7. REPORTS: Mayor's Report – Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday observed, Monday, January 18, 2021; whereby, the City Offices will be closed. Mayor Agenbroad encouraged the public to continue to look for updates regarding meetings and events on the City's website, social media and newsletters. The State of the City Address will be published on the City's website and social media as well.

In addition, the next City Council Work Session will be held on Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 6:00 PM followed by the Regular Meeting at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers. The Finance Committee will meet on January 21 at 5:30 PM in Council Chambers.

City Manager's Report – Mr. Pozzuto wished everyone a Happy New Year! Mr. Pozzuto also commented that the City is aware of the water main break in the area of SR741/Pennyroyal Road, which will be fixed by service crews as soon as possible.

Committee Reports –

Ms. Iverson – No reports.

Mr. Harding – No reports.

Mr. Brunner – No reports.

Mr. Chmiel – No reports.

Mr. Hanson – No reports.

Deputy Mayor Ridd – No reports.

ITEM 8. OTHER BUSINESS. Mayor Agenbroad called for the following motion:

A MOTION TO DONATE AN OUT-OF-SERVICE POLICE VEHICLE NO LONGER UTILIZED OR NEEDED BY THE CITY TO THE VILLAGE OF ADDYSTON, OHIO, WHICH DOES NOT POSSESS THE RESOURCES TO PURCHASE A NEW VEHICLE. THE 2015 CHEVY TAHOE WILL BE USED BY THE ADDYSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT AS A REPLACEMENT PATROL VEHICLE TO HELP THEM CONTINUE TO OPERATE SAFELY.

Mayor Agenbroad presented the item for questions/comments of Council. No questions/comments.

Mr. Brunner motioned. Mr. Harding seconded the motion.

No discussion.

VOTE: Brunner, Yes; Ridd, Yes; Iverson, Yes; Agenbroad, Yes; Chmiel, Yes; Hanson, Yes; Harding, Yes. [7-0]

A MOTION TO APPOINT JERRY FERRIS TO THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS FOR AN UNEXPIRED TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022. JERRY FERRIS WILL REPLACE MIKE THOMPSON WHO WAS RECENTLY APPOINTED TO SERVE ON THE PLANNING COMMISSION.

Mayor Agenbroad presented the item for questions/comments of Council. No questions/comments.

Mr. Hanson motioned. Ms. Ridd seconded the motion.

No discussion.

VOTE: Iverson, Yes; Agenbroad, Yes; Chmiel, Yes; Hanson, Yes; Harding, Yes; Brunner, Yes; Ridd, Yes. [7-0]

ITEM 9. FINAL COUNCIL AND MANAGER COMMENTS. No Final Council or Manager Comments.

ITEM 10. GUEST COMMENTS. Mayor Agenbroad invited any guests that wished to be heard to approach the podium, state their name and address for the record, and make their comments accordingly.

1) Reverend Jed Dearing, St. Francis Episcopal Church, Springboro – Rev. Dearing introduced himself and stated that he was representing the Springboro Pastors Association. Rev. Dearing commented that he wished to share information about a new collaborative effort in 2021 between the Springboro Pastors Association and the Springboro Community Assistance Center (SCAC). In October of 2020, Jubilee Church on Main Street held a weekend food drive on behalf of the SCAC and were able to provide a great amount of food to the center. More recently, Rev. Dearing and other pastors were at the SCAC and were told about the great demand for food due to the pandemic, especially in communities outside of ours that are not faring as well. This demand is really drying up the supply from local food banks that have helped to supply our food pantry at the SCAC. For 2021, the Springboro Pastors Association has committed to host a weekend food drive each month of the year. The next drive will be held January 16 and 17 from 10:30AM-12:30PM at St. Francis Episcopal Church, and they are in the process of publicizing needed items. Southwest Church will host the drive in February and United Church of Christ will host the drive in March. The food drive will continue to be

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hosted by a community church monthly throughout the year. Ten of the 12 months have a commitment from Springboro churches and other churches are competing to host the food drive for the last two months.

Rev. Dearing wished to thank the Mayor, City Council and Staff, as well as Community Relations Director Maureen Russell-Hodgson and other staff members, who have been incredibly responsive in helping to advertise and get the word out through signage for the week of each of the food drives. The Springboro Chamber of Commerce has been very helpful also and will be publicizing the week of the food drive each month throughout 2021.

Rev. Dearing finally commented that he simply wanted to share that partnership and their progress with City Council and thank the City for its support. He added that it is the churches' commitment to work together through this project to care for our neighbors who are hungry and in need, and care for the community as well.

Mr. Pozzuto, who serves as President of the SCAC Board, thanked Rev. Dearing and the Springboro Pastors Association for all of the effort they are putting into the food drive project.

Mayor Agenbroad thanked Rev. Dearing for attending tonight's meeting and sharing this project with City Council.

No other guests came forward.

ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE SESSION. No Executive Session.

ITEM 12. ADJOURNMENT. Mayor Agenbroad thanked the MVCC for tonight's telecast and scheduled rebroadcasts of this Springboro City Council Meeting.

Mayor Agenbroad called for a motion to adjourn the Thursday, January 7, 2021 Springboro City Council Regular Meeting at approximately 7:35 PM.

Mr. Harding motioned. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion.

VOTE: Harding, Yes; Brunner, Yes; Ridd, Yes; Iverson, Yes; Agenbroad, Yes; Chmiel, Yes; Hanson, Yes. [7-0]

—MEETING ADJOURNED—



John H. Agenbroad, Mayor

John H. Agenbroad

Presiding Officer



Lori A. Martin, Clerk of Council