City of Springfield

Minutes

City Council Meeting

Jeff Schrag, Mayor

Zone Councilmembers	**General Councilmembers**
Monica Horton, Zone 1	Heather Hardinger, General A
Abe McGull, Zone 2	Craig Hosmer, General B
Brandon Jenson, Zone 3	Callie Carroll, General C
Bruce Adib-Yazdi, Zone 4	Derek Lee, General D

February 2, 2026	**6:30 PM**	**Regional Police-Fire Training Center 2620 West Battlefield Road Room 101, 102, and 103**

1. ROLL CALL.

Present: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember McGull, Councilmember Hosmer, Mayor Pro Tem Hardinger, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Adib-Yazdi, and Mayor Schrag
Absent: Councilmember Horton.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

2.1. Approval of Minutes. January 12, 2026, City Council Meeting, January 9, 2026, Special City Council Meeting, and January 20, 2026, Special City Council Meeting.

Councilmember Jenson moved to approve as presented the minutes of the January 12, 2026, City Council Meeting, January 9, 2026, Special City Council Meeting, and January 20, 2026, Special City Council Meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Hardinger seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember McGull, Councilmember Hosmer, Mayor Pro Tem Hardinger, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Adib-Yazdi, and Mayor Schrag. Nays: None. Absent: Councilmember Horton. Abstain: None.

3. FINALIZATION AND APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDAS.

CITIZENS WISHING TO SPEAK TO OR REMOVE ITEMS FROM THE CONSENT AGENDAS MUST DO SO AT THIS TIME.

The Consent Agenda was approved as presented by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember McGull, Councilmember Hosmer, Mayor Pro Tem Hardinger, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Adib-Yazdi, and Mayor Schrag. Nays: None. Absent: Councilmember Horton. Abstain: None.

4. CEREMONIAL MATTERS.

5. CITY MANAGER REPORT AND RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RAISED AT THE PREVIOUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING.

David Cameron, City Manager, extended his appreciation to Springfield Public Works for their around-the-clock snow and ice removal efforts that kept key streets accessible, and to City Utilities for their dedicated work to maintain and restore critical services under difficult conditions. He also acknowledged all first responders, including police, fire, emergency management and public information personnel, whose efforts ensured public safety throughout the recent snow event.

Mr. Cameron thanked Mayor Pro Tem Hardinger, Councilman Adib-Yazdi, and Cora Scott's team in Public Information and Civic Engagement for their contributions to education and messaging regarding the convention and event center.

Mr. Cameron noted the City would be hosting the national Route 66 Centennial kickoff on April 30. He added tickets were on sale at greatsouthernbankarena.com for the once-in-a-lifetime multi-act concert featuring Little Big Town, Chris Janson, Gary LeVox of Rascal Flatts, Gretchen Wilson, Ozark Mountain Daredevils, and the Haygoods. He added NBC's TODAY Show would broadcast their third hour live from Springfield that morning.

Mr. Cameron noted registration remained open for SGF Ambassadors, a volunteer and civic engagement program that offered residents an up-close look at key City departments. He added participants would tour behind-the-scenes operations within Parks, Public Works, and Environmental Services, gaining a better understanding of the scope of City services and how residents could get involved.

Mr. Cameron thanked Councilmember McGull and Councilmember Hosmer for attending the Salute to Legislators in Jefferson City. He expressed his belief it was important to have an active voice in Jefferson City. Mr. Cameron noted he attended on Tuesday to meet with representatives.

Councilmember Hosmer noted he had received complaints regarding marijuana facilities that were placing signs in the City right-of-way on Glenstone Avenue. He asked if a letter could be sent out to the marijuana facilities noting this was a violation of city ordinance. Mr. Cameron expressed his appreciation for the location information and noted there would be a rollout as communication efforts continued. He further noted citations were beginning to be issued for signs in the right-of-way, and he encouraged citizens to notify the City of any issues.

Councilmember McGull expressed his belief that signs in the right-of-way were also a safety risk.

6. SECOND READING AND FINAL PASSAGE.

Citizens Have Spoken. May Be Voted On.

6.1. Council Bill 2026-006 (McGull)

A special ordinance amending the budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 for the Department of Environmental Services in the amount of $900,000 to appropriate retained earnings from the Clean Water Enterprise Fund for the construction of the Oscar Blom Streambank Stabilization Project.

Ordinance 28246. Council Bill 2026-006 (McGull) was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember McGull, Councilmember Hosmer, Mayor Pro Tem Hardinger, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Adib-Yazdi, and Mayor Schrag. Nays: None. Absent: Councilmember Horton. Abstain: None.

6.2. Council Bill 2026-007 (Horton)

A special ordinance amending the budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 for the Department of Environmental Services in the amount of $500,000 to appropriate retained earnings from the Clean Water Enterprise Fund for trunkline sewer replacement over a portion of the Ozarks Technical Community College Campus.

Ordinance 28247. Council Bill 2026-007 (Horton) was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember McGull, Councilmember Hosmer, Mayor Pro Tem Hardinger, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Adib-Yazdi, and Mayor Schrag. Nays: None. Absent: Councilmember Horton. Abstain: None.

6.3. Council Bill 2026-008 (Hardinger)

A special ordinance amending the budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 for the Department of Environmental Services in the amount of $700,000 to appropriate retained earnings from the Clean Water Enterprise Fund for construction of the South Dry Sac Streambank Stabilization Project.

Ordinance 28248. Council Bill 2026-008 (Hardinger) was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember McGull, Councilmember Hosmer, Mayor Pro Tem Hardinger, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Adib-Yazdi, and Mayor Schrag. Nays: None. Absent: Councilmember Horton. Abstain: None.

6.4. Council Bill 2026-009 (Hosmer)

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the United States Marshals Service (“USMS”) for the Springfield Police Department (“SPD”) to participate in the Regional Fugitive Task Force.

Councilmember Hosmer asked for confirmation that the proposed had no connection to the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement office, that it was with the United States Marshals, and that it would require body worn cameras for every participating law enforcement officer. Mr. Paul responded affirmatively. Councilmember Hosmer expressed his support for the proposed

Ordinance 28249. Council Bill 2026-009 (Hosmer) was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember McGull, Councilmember Hosmer, Mayor Pro Tem Hardinger, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Adib-Yazdi, and Mayor Schrag. Nays: None. Absent: Councilmember Horton. Abstain: None.

6.5. Council Bill 2026-010 (Carroll)

A general ordinance amending the Springfield City Code, Chapter 2, "Administration," Article VI, "Finances," Division 4, "Police Officers' and Fire Fighters' Retirement System," by amending Section 2-480, "Assignment or garnishment of benefits."

Councilmember Carroll moved to amend Council Bill 2026-010 by changing line 43 to add the words "or the City" after the word "union". Councilmember Jenson seconded the motion, and it was discussed.

Councilmember Carroll noted the proposed would be amended the bill by changing line 43 to add the words or the City after the word union. She further noted the proposed would authorize Police and Fire retirees to assign benefits for the purpose of paying union dues and other benefits offered through a union. The amendment was necessary to accommodate two grandfathered retirees that participated in an insurance program offered through the City.

The motion to amend Council Bill 2026-010 was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember McGull, Councilmember Hosmer, Mayor Pro Tem Hardinger, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Adib-Yazdi, and Mayor Schrag. Nays: None. Absent: Councilmember Horton. Abstain: None.

The public hearing was continued on the amendment only to the February 9, 2026, City Council meeting.

6.6. Council Bill 2026-011 (Jenson, Adib-Yazdi, Horton, Hosmer)

A general ordinance amending the Fee Schedule for certain City services as provided in the Springfield City Code Section 2-425, by making such adjustments as provided in the attached "Evaluation of Charges for Municipal Services"; and adopting new fees for certain City Services.

Ordinance 6974. Council Bill 2026-011 (Jenson, Adib-Yazdi, Horton, Hosmer) was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember McGull, Councilmember Hosmer, Mayor Pro Tem Hardinger, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Adib-Yazdi, and Mayor Schrag. Nays: None. Absent: Councilmember Horton. Abstain: None.

7. RESOLUTIONS.

Citizens May Speak. May Be Voted On.

7.1. Council Bill 2026-013 (Jenson, McGull, Adib-Yazdi)

A resolution authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to apply for a Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development Transportation Discretionary Grant from the United States Department of Transportation in an amount of up to $25,000,000, which requires matching funds of 20 percent from non-federal sources, for the purpose of funding improvements to Sunshine Street from Kansas Expressway to Glenstone Avenue.

Scott Bachman, Transportation Planner, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Mr. Bachman noted the proposed would allow authorization to apply for up to $25 million through the Business Use Incentives for Large-Scale Development (BUILD) program to fund infrastructure to spur development. He further noted the goal of the application would be to implement the findings of the Sunshine Street Corridor Study, which started in May 2025 and was nearing its conclusion in the next few months. Mr. Bachman clarified this was the portion of Sunshine Street that was maintained by the City from Kansas Expressway to Glenstone Avenue. He noted they would consult and cooperate with the consultant performing the study to craft the application to include a range of potential strategy alternatives while maintaining flexibility to allow the study to reach its conclusion, so the final recommendations could be implemented. He added the award would require a 20- percent match from non-federal funds, which would come from a combination of local sales tax revenues, and the deadline to apply was February 24 with the award anticipated to be announced on June 28.

Councilmember Adib-Yazdi expressed his appreciation for the clarity and timing of the corridor study and the grant.

An opportunity was given for citizens to express their views. With no appearances, the public hearing was declared closed.

Resolution 10853. Council Bill 2026-013 (Jenson, McGull, Adib-Yazdi) was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember McGull, Councilmember Hosmer, Mayor Pro Tem Hardinger, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Adib-Yazdi, and Mayor Schrag. Nays: None. Absent: Councilmember Horton. Abstain: None.

7.2. Council Bill 2026-033 (Jenson, Hosmer)

A resolution directing the City Manager to conduct a comprehensive review of all Springfield Police Department Standard Operating Guidelines, as well as any other relevant municipal policy, for alignment with the recently adopted Public Safety Council Priority as it relates to enforcement of motor vehicle violations and traffic safety.

Jordan Paul, City Attorney, provided a brief introduction to the proposed. He noted Councilmember Jenson asked that a resolution be prepared directing a review of Springfield Police Department operating guidelines for alignment with the City Council public safety priority, specifically as it related to enforcement of motor vehicle violations and traffic safety. He turned the presentation over to Councilmember Jenson.

Councilmember Jenson noted the beginning portion of the resolution outlined the reason it was brought forward. He further noted it was in response to a long-standing issue of traffic enforcement in the City. He added there were various efforts to address the issue since 2023, including listening sessions with downtown residents and property owners, meetings with the City Manager's Office, and bringing the issue up when the Police Chief provided updates to City Council as it was a serious issue. He expressed his belief people felt unsafe because they experienced small acts of lawlessness every single day. Councilmember Jenson noted this was a public safety issue. He further noted this was also an economic issue. He expressed his belief there were well-intentioned and well-positioned people standing ready to reinvest in downtown who were holding back and standing on the sidelines because of the issue. He added the low-level crime issue was impacting the credibility of the Police Department, who had frontline officers working overtime daily to keep the streets safe. He expressed his appreciation for residents who had continually supported efforts to increase resources for the Police Department, including the ballot measure that recently increased salaries to make the Police Department more attractive for new recruits. He noted the resolution at its core was a data request, recognizing that City Council did not and should not get involved in departmental policy, but did request a full review of those policies with input from the frontline officers who were doing the work every day and to learn barriers that may exist for them to be fully empowered in their roles. He expressed his belief it was important to ensure the appropriate balance was struck, so officers were empowered to do what they need to do. He expressed his appreciation for the assistance of the City Manager's Office in preparing the resolution, the feedback from the Police Chief, and to Councilmember Hosmer for his support in bringing the resolution forward.

Councilmember McGull asked if the July 1, 2026, report due date was realistic. Mr. Cameron responded it was a realistic goal and if the date needed to be moved, it would be communicated in the City Manager's Report.

Councilmember Hosmer expressed his belief it was important to look at the allocation of law enforcement resources such as personnel and where they should be utilized, whether sworn officers or non-sworn officers, and further expressed his belief law enforcement capacity would be short-staffed for at least the foreseeable future and there should be a plan

An opportunity was given for citizens to express their views. With no appearances, the public hearing was declared closed.

Resolution 10854. Council Bill 2026-033 (Jenson, Hosmer) was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember McGull, Councilmember Hosmer, Mayor Pro Tem Hardinger, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Adib-Yazdi, and Mayor Schrag. Nays: None. Absent: Councilmember Horton. Abstain: None

7.3. Council Bill 2026-034 (Hardinger, Adib-Yazdi)

A resolution adopting a comprehensive community education and information framework regarding a new regional convention and events center funded by a 3% increase to the tourism tax.

Cora Scott, Director of Public Information and Civic Engagement, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Ms. Scott noted the proposed would adopt a comprehensive community education and information framework regarding a proposed new regional convention and event center that would be funded by a 3-percent increase to the tourism tax. She thanked Mayor Pro Tem Hardinger and Councilmember Adib-Yazdi for their help with the proposed. She further noted the City conducted public listening sessions, an online community survey, and continued to gather feedback regarding the potential future of a new regional convention and event center. She added that subsequently, City Council placed before the voters a proposed 3-percent increase to the tourism tax to fund the renovation, expansion, and conversion of the City-owned Springfield Expo Center. This included the demolition of the former Sears Building, which was on the west end of that building. Ms. Scott noted that end of the building was part of the plan. She expressed her belief City Council recognized the importance of providing clear, concise, comprehensive, transparent, and accessible information to the public regarding the project, including its purpose, financial structure, safeguards, anticipated outcomes, and relationship to broader City priorities. She further noted the education committee was comprised of City Council members, City staff, and community representatives who had been convening to identify community information needs, engagement strategies, and educational deliverables. She added the Office of Public Information and Civic Engagement emphasized the need for simple and consistent messaging, and transparent explanations of project elements including project scope, cost control, site selection, and long-term financial sustainability. Ms. Scott noted the proposed would serve as the formal basis for the City's community education and information framework.

Councilmember McGull expressed his appreciation for the resolution and asked if there was a resource citizens could utilize if they had questions about the proposed tax. Ms. Scott responded the information could be found at springfieldmo.gov/election.

Mayor Pro Tem Hardinger noted as co-chair of the Tourism Tax Education Committee, she was sponsoring the resolution to formally establish a clear, consistent, and accessible public information plan for the proposed convention and event enter and associated tourism tax question. She expressed her belief it gave the right structure to communicate the realities of the project, what it was, what it was not, how it would be funded, and what safeguards were in place across multiple channels. She further expressed her belief the work was about transparency and trust, and the public deserved straightforward facts and an understanding of the scope, timeline, and financial framework of the project. Mayor Pro Tem Hardinger noted she looked forward to working collaboratively with the Education Committee, City staff, and community members to shape the vision of what a modern convention and event center could mean for Springfield and the region, such as a stronger visitor economy, more conventions and regional events, new opportunities for local businesses and residents, and a facility that could serve both community events and tourists alike. She added the purpose of the project was to meet people where they were and ensure residents had all the information they needed to participate in this decision in an informed way. She asked for support for the resolution.

Councilmember Adib-Yazdi noted he had enjoyed participating in the process to inform the public. He expressed his belief it was important to look at periods of intentional growth in the City, and it was time for this type of project to come together.

An opportunity was given for citizens to express their views. With no appearances, the public hearing was declared closed.

Resolution 10855. Council Bill 2026-034 (Hardinger, Adib-Yazdi) was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember McGull, Councilmember Hosmer, Mayor Pro Tem Hardinger, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Adib-Yazdi, and Mayor Schrag. Nays: None. Absent: Councilmember Horton. Abstain: None.

8. EMERGENCY BILLS.

9. PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

10. GRANTS.

Citizens May Speak. May Be Voted On.

10.1. Council Bill 2026-014 (Jenson)

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to enter into a Surface Transportation Block Grant (“STBG”) Program Agreement with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission (“MHTC”) to fund right-of-way acquisition costs associated with future street, bicycle/pedestrian, and stormwater improvements on Kansas Avenue from Walnut Lawn Street to Maplewood Street; amending the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget for the Department of Public Works in the amount of $400,000 to appropriate federal STBG Program funds; and declaring that this Ordinance qualifies for approval in one reading pursuant to City Charter Section 2.16(25).

Scott Bachman, Transportation Planner, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Mr. Bachman noted the next five bills would seek authorization to execute agreements to utilize Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding for various public works projects. He further noted the first of which was right-of-way acquisition for future street, bicycle and pedestrian, and stormwater improvements on Kansas Avenue from Walnut Lawn Street to Maplewood Street. He added the total estimated cost of the right-of-way acquisition was $500,000, 80 percent of which would be funded by STBG funds, and 20 percent by combination of 1/4-cent and 1/8-cent funds already budgeted.

Councilmember Jenson noted the specific project was responsive to a long-standing request of the Greater Park Crest neighborhood and expressed gratitude on their behalf for the project moving forward. He further noted he had walked the area, and while this was the right-of-way acquisition he was amazed by the Public Works Department's thoughtfulness in acquiring right-of-way before conducting engineering and design, and construction.

An opportunity was given for citizens to express their views. With no appearances, the public hearing was declared closed.

Ordinance 28250. Council Bill 2026-014 (Jenson) was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember McGull, Councilmember Hosmer, Mayor Pro Tem Hardinger, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Adib-Yazdi, and Mayor Schrag. Nays: None. Absent: Councilmember Horton. Abstain: None.

10.2. Council Bill 2026-015 (Hosmer)

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to enter into a Surface Transportation Block Grant ("STBG") Program Agreement with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission ("MHTC") to make Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") improvements on various streets being resurfaced throughout the City; amending the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget for the Department of Public Works in the amount of $743,760 to appropriate federal STBG Program funds; and declaring that this Ordinance qualifies for approval in one reading pursuant to City Charter Section 2.16(25).

Scott Bachman, Transportation Planner, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Mr. Bachman noted the proposed would authorize STGB funds for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements along routes to be resurfaced. He further noted the estimated cost of the ADA improvements was approximately $930,000, 80 percent of which would be covered by STBG funds, and 20 percent by 1/4-cent Capital Improvement Sales Tax funding.

Councilmember McGull asked if there was an idea of what area would be resurfaced. He expressed his interest in the Cherry Street area which had deteriorated a bit. Mr. Bachman responded there was a list of projects, and he would be happy to take the comments regarding Cherry Street.

An opportunity was given for citizens to express their views. With no appearances, the public hearing was declared closed.

Ordinance 28251. Council Bill 2026-015 (Hosmer) was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember McGull, Councilmember Hosmer, Mayor Pro Tem Hardinger, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Adib-Yazdi, and Mayor Schrag. Nays: None. Absent: Councilmember Horton. Abstain: None.

10.3. Council Bill 2026-016 (McGull)

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to enter into a Carbon Reduction Program ("CRP") Supplemental Agreement with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission ("MHTC") for right-of-way acquisition costs associated with a multi-use side path to extend the Fassnight Creek Greenway Trail along Bennett Street from Glenstone Avenue to Enterprise Avenue; amending the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget for the Department of Public Works in the amount of $2,652,000 to appropriate federal Surface Transportation Block Grant-Urban ("STBG-U") Program funds; and declaring that this Ordinance qualifies for approval in one reading pursuant to City Charter Section 2.16(25).

Scott Bachman, Transportation Planner, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Mr. Bachman noted the proposed would authorize right-of-way acquisition using STBG funds for future street and trail improvements along Bennett Street from Glenstone to Enterprise. He further noted the estimated cost of the right-of-way acquisition was $3.3 million, 80 percent of which would be funded by STBG funds and 20 percent by the 1/8-cent Transportation Sales Tax Walkability Program funds.

An opportunity was given for citizens to express their views. With no appearances, the public hearing was declared closed.

Ordinance 28252. Council Bill 2026-016 (McGull) was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember McGull, Councilmember Hosmer, Mayor Pro Tem Hardinger, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Adib-Yazdi, and Mayor Schrag. Nays: None. Absent: Councilmember Horton. Abstain: None.

10.4. Council Bill 2026-017 (Adib-Yazdi)

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to enter into a Surface Transportation Block Grant (“STBG”) Program Agreement with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission (“MHTC”) to fund right-of-way acquisition costs associated with future street, bicycle/pedestrian, and stormwater improvements on Fremont Avenue from Erie Street to Independence Street; amending the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget for the Department of Public Works in the amount of $880,000 to appropriate federal STBG Program funds; and declaring that this Ordinance qualifies for approval in one reading pursuant to City Charter Section 2.16(25).

Scott Bachman, Transportation Planner, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Mr. Bachman noted the proposed would authorize right-of-way acquisition for future improvements along Fremont Avenue from Erie to Independence. He further noted the future work would include street improvements, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, and stormwater improvements. He added the total cost of right-of-way acquisition was estimated at $1.1 million, 80 percent of which would be from STBG funds, and 20 percent would be from 1/4-cent Capital Improvement Sales Tax funding already budgeted.

Councilmember Adib-Yazdi expressed his appreciation for bicycle and pedestrian facilities language being included. He expressed his belief bicycle, pedestrian, and overall traffic safety were critical in improving public safety throughout Springfield.

An opportunity was given for citizens to express their views. With no appearances, the public hearing was declared closed.

Ordinance 28253. Council Bill 2026-017 (Adib-Yazdi) was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember McGull, Councilmember Hosmer, Mayor Pro Tem Hardinger, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Adib-Yazdi, and Mayor Schrag. Nays: None. Absent: Councilmember Horton. Abstain: None.

10.5. Council Bill 2026-018 (Carroll)

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to enter into a Surface Transportation Block Grant (“STBG”) Program Agreement with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission (“MHTC”) to replace school flasher signals at various locations throughout the City; amending the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget for the Department of Public Works in the amount of $545,608 to appropriate federal Surface Transportation Block Grant Program funds; and declaring that this Ordinance qualifies for approval in one reading pursuant to City Charter Section 2.16(25).

Scott Bachman, Transportation Planner, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Mr. Bachman noted the program agreement would authorize STBG funding to replace approximately 96 school flasher beacons at various locations throughout the city to try to ensure the safety of our most vulnerable transportation users, especially in school zones. He further noted the estimated cost was approximately $682,000, with 80 percent from STBG funding, and 20 percent from Capital Improvement Sales Tax Traffic Signal and Traffic Calming Program funds.

An opportunity was given for citizens to express their views. With no appearances, the public hearing was declared closed.

Ordinance 28254. Council Bill 2026-018 (Carroll) was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember McGull, Councilmember Hosmer, Mayor Pro Tem Hardinger, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Adib-Yazdi, and Mayor Schrag. Nays: None. Absent: Councilmember Horton. Abstain: None.

10.6. Council Bill 2026-019 (Horton)

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to execute an Airport Aid Agreement between the City of Springfield, by and through the Springfield-Branson National Airport Board, and the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission to accept grant funds in the amount of $160,000, with a required match of funds in the amount of $17,777; amending the budget of the Airport Board in the amount of $177,777; and declaring that this Ordinance qualifies for approval in one reading pursuant to City Charter Section 2.16(25).

Ren Luebbering, Markeing and Communications Coordinator for the Springfield-Branson National Airport provided a brief overview of the proposed. Ms. Luebbering noted the Missouri Department of Transportation awarded $160,000 of an Air Service Development Grant to support marketing initiatives for the Springfield-Branson National Airport. She further noted the funding for the grant came from fuel sales tax that was purchased in the State of Missouri. On January 15, 2026, the Airport Board passed a motion recommending that City Council approve the acceptance of the grant which would be used for a variety of marketing purposes to promote the Springfield-Branson National Airport.

An opportunity was given for citizens to express their views. With no appearances, the public hearing was declared closed.

Ordinance 28255. Council Bill 2026-019 (Horton) was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember McGull, Councilmember Hosmer, Mayor Pro Tem Hardinger, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Adib-Yazdi, and Mayor Schrag. Nays: None. Absent: Councilmember Horton. Abstain: None.

11. AMENDED BILLS.

12. COUNCIL BILLS FOR PUBLIC HEARING.

13. FIRST READING BILLS. Requiring One Reading.

14. FIRST READING BILLS. Requiring Two Readings.

Citizens May Speak. Not Anticipated To Be Voted On.

14.1. Council Bill 2026-026 (McGull)

A special ordinance approving a Petition to Establish the North Glenstone Community Improvement District; authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to execute a Cooperative Agreement between the City of Springfield and the North Glenstone Community Improvement District; and directing the City Clerk to notify the Missouri Department of Economic Development and the Missouri State Auditor of the creation of the District.

Amanda Ohlensehlen, Director of Economic Vitality and Workforce Development, provided a brief overview of the proposed. She noted the proposed was a petition to establish the North Glenstone Community Improvement District (CID), generally located along North Glenstone Avenue between I-44 and East Turner Street. She added the area was comprised of approximately 172 acres with 33 property owners that represented 48 parcels. Ms. Ohlensehlen noted the general land use included a mix of commercial uses such as retail, restaurants, hotels, and other lodging establishments.

She further noted the CID Act was authorized under the Revised Missouri statute Section 67 and could be organized as a nonprofit political subdivision and must be governed by a Board of Directors. The purpose of these entities was to fund public services and/or public improvements by imposing either a sales tax, property tax, business license tax, special assessments, or some combination of these mechanisms. She added the petition was required to dictate the specifics of the district, such as geographic boundaries, what type of funding sources it would impose, what activities those sources of funds would be used to support, and the lifespan of the district. Ms. Ohlensehlen noted the proposed indicated the district would be a political subdivision and governed by a five-member board. She further noted four of the members would either be real property owners or business owners in the district, and one member would be a Springfield resident registered voter with no financial interest or involvement in businesses operating in the district.

Ms. Ohlensehlen noted the maximum lifespan of the district was 27 years, with a proposed 1-percent sales tax if approved by qualified voters. The total sales tax within the CID boundary would be 9.1 percent. She further noted the additional sales tax would reimburse any of the costs, and some of the projects supported would be beautification projects like landscaping, general cleaning, and maintenance services, as well as right-of-way improvements and security services. She added the petition was signed by over 50 percent of the property owners in the district, both by both per capita and by assessed valuation. Ms. Ohlensehlen noted the petition was determined to be valid by the City Clerk's Office.

She further noted City staff published the notice for Public Hearing in the News-Leader on January 12 and January 20 and sent out notices to the property owners within the proposed CID boundary via mail. She added due to a clerical error, the notices were inadvertently sent by regular mail, and to rectify this situation, staff requested City Council continue the public hearing to the second reading on February 9. New notices were sent via certified mail and were noticed within the News-Leader indicating the public hearing would be continued until February 9 when the second reading would occur.

Councilmember Adib-Yazdi asked if the proposed would have to be approved by residents within the district and if there were any registered voters within the district. Ms. Ohlensehlen responded affirmatively and noted there were property owners within the district. She added there would be an election.

Councilmember Hosmer asked if the proposed was limited to public improvements. Ms. Ohlensehlen responded affirmatively, within the district boundaries. Councilmember Hosmer asked if it was limited to sales and use tax and if there were other CIDs that used funds for items related to security issues. Ms. Ohlensehlen responded it would be a 1-percent sales tax, and security was an eligible item.

An opportunity was given for citizens to express their views.

Cory Collins, a representative of a group of landowners in the district, noted they were seeking some avenues to accomplish goals they had for the area. He further noted he had prepared the petition for review. He expressed his belief staff did a good job of summarizing the application. He added the goals were to improve the existing district with security and beautification, and to generally create a safer atmosphere in the area. Mr. Collins expressed his belief the proposed was a great use of a CID and would be at no cost to the City's budget.

Mark Hecquet, president and CEO of Visit Springfield, spoke in support of the proposed. He noted Glenstone Avenue was a gateway into the city, with approximately 12,000 vehicles that traveled on Glenstone Avenue daily. He added there were approximately 4.3 million visitors traveling the avenue each year. He added the corridor featured at least 28 hotels, of which 18 were clustered on the North Glenstone and I-44 gateway, and two key convention and meeting hotels, the Double Tree and the Oasis. Mr. Hecquet noted there were a number of attractions. He expressed his belief the corridor was suffering from an aging landscape, inconsistent lighting, and visible homelessness, creating a perception gap that impacted visitor confidence and hotel performance. He further expressed his belief the CID would ensure one of Springfield's primary gateways embodied safety, vibrancy, and community pride, and the initiative would transform the corridor into a welcoming first impression.

Councilmember McGull thanked the speakers and noted Glenstone Avenue was a gateway into the community. He noted there were unique telephone poles on Glenstone and mentioned other cities had planted trees to camouflage the poles. He expressed his belief things such as this could be considered in the beautification process.

With no further appearances, Mayor Schrag noted the public hearing would be continued to the February 9 City Council Meeting.

14.2. Council Bill 2026-027 (Lee)

A special ordinance amending the budget for the Department of Public Works for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 in the amount of $307,443.27 to accept payment from local partners sharing the cost of capturing aerial imagery in Greene County and Christian County in 2026.

Nathan Huggins, GIS and Asset Systems Manager, provided a brief overview of the proposed. He noted the purpose of the proposed was to request funding for a spring 2026 aero photography flight, utilizing the City's existing contract with Pictometry International Corporation. He further noted upon approval, the resulting imagery would be incorporated into the City's geographic information systems visible on all public web maps and made available for public download and use. The proposed flight would capture approximately 1,283 square miles of three-inch-high resolution imagery covering the entirety of Greene and Christian counties. He added the project was being conducted through a cost sharing partnership among eight organizations, including City of Springfield, the cities of Nixa, Ozark, and Republic, Greene and Christian Counties, City Utilities of Springfield, and the Ozark Transportation Organization.

Mr. Huggins noted the partner group had successfully utilized the shared funding model to acquire imagery dating back to 2001. He further noted all participating agencies would jointly own the imagery and associated deliverables. He added the total cost for this project was $330,367.50, with the partner agencies contributing $307,443.27, and the City of Springfield share totaling $22,924.23.

Council member Lee asked when the topographic map would be updated. Mr. Huggins responded the City did not purchase updated elevation data or service to capture Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) data in any way. He added the State of Missouri, did fly Greene County in 2020; and that data was available and there was no plan to update it.

An opportunity was given for citizens to express their views. With no appearances, the public hearing was declared closed.

14.3. Council Bill 2026-028 (Hardinger)

A general ordinance amending the Springfield City Code, Chapter 2 “Administration,” Article I “In General,” Section 2-3 “Persons Authorized to Enter into Agreements on Behalf of the City,” to modify the authority of the City Manager and department directors to enter into contracts without additional legislative action; and amending the Springfield City Code, Chapter 2 “Administration,” Article I “In General,” Section 2-9 “Gifts and donations to city,” to increase the value of gifts and donations to the city that may be accepted without additional legislative action.

Jordan Paul, City Attorney, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Mr. Paul noted the purchasing policy was updated as early as last May and Section 2-3 dovetailed with the purchasing policy in a couple of ways. He further noted it authorized the City Manager to enter into certain types of contracts that did not necessarily relate to spending, but that needed authority to enter into. He added one example of that was accepting gifts or donations. Mr. Paul noted the City Manager currently could not accept a gift worth more than $4,000 without City Council approval. He further noted the differences from the approved purchasing policy were that there was a provision for Public Works and Environmental Services Emergency Field Directives that would authorize up to $200,000 for expenses such as fixing something that had broken, and for the Police Department to enter into leases up to the amount of $150,000.

Councilmember Hosmer noted the provision on line 80 that allowed the City Manager to enter into lease purchase financing agreements on behalf of the City had no limitation on the amount and no prerequisite for City Council authority. Mr. Paul noted there was a new section and on line 35, it was required that all contracts entered into were contingent on the Director of Finance certifying the availability of unencumbered funds appropriated for the purpose. Councilmember Hosmer expressed his preference the language be kept that provided funds were appropriated by City Council for lease purchase programs. He asked how often the City entered into such agreements. David Holtmann, Director of Finance, responded approximately once or twice per year. Mr. Cameron suggested it be reviewed for consistency with the purchasing policy and brought back at the next meeting.

An opportunity was given for citizens to express their views. With no appearances, the public hearing was declared closed.

14.4. Council Bill 2026-029 (Jenson)

A Special Ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to enter into Addendum #1 to the annual agreement with the Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau, Inc., d/b/a Visit Springfield, Missouri, executed on August 8, 2025; and amending the City's budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 in the amount of $250,562, for the purpose of reflecting current and projected operational changes of the Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau and to accommodate board-approved expenditures.

Mark Hecquet, president and CEO of Visit Springfield, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Mr. Hecquet noted they were reviewing increasing the projected room tax by the amount of approximately $150,000 for the fiscal year to date. He further noted the hotels had been performing well, with an increase in occupancy of 7.3 percent in the first six months. He added the average daily rate was up 4.3 percent, resulting in an increase of nearly 10 percent in revenue. Mr. Hecquet noted short-term rentals had an increase in occupancy of approximately 9 percent, with a marked reduction in supply of approximately 17.8 percent. This accounted for an overall decrease of approximately 2.6 percent. He added the events of the first six months when combined with the next six-month forecast, and considering the events the City would be hosting, accounted for the increase in room tax of nearly $150,000.

Mr. Hecquet noted, as an organization, they had expanded advertising opportunities, generating revenue through new Route 66 brochures. He added they had refined their welcome guide, improving advertising opportunities and generating approximately $20,000. He added they did work doing co-op advertising with the State and working with the tourism office. He further noted they had to adjust the year's budget after receiving a late invoice in the amount of $200,000 for their commitment to the Cooper Killian Sports Complex. Mr. Hecquet noted they had allocated $50,000 towards Route 66 public relations efforts and additional marketing.

Councilmember Jenson asked if a portion of the revenues were from higher than expected hotel/motel licensing taxes. Mr. Hecquet responded affirmatively. Councilmember Jenson asked if the $156,000 was the entire increase or if a portion of that was being allocated to the Sports Commission and Springfield Arts Council as well. Mr. Hecquet responded the increase was specific to the Visit Springfield's 47 percent of the 5-percent tax. He added the Sports Commission and Arts Council would have a percentage increase as well.

Mayor Schrag asked if the increase in revenue was 10 percent for hotel/motel. Mr. Hecquet responded the hotel's revenue year-over-year for the first six months was up 9.9 percent.

An opportunity was given for citizens to express their views. With no appearances, the public hearing was declared closed.

14.5. Council Bill 2026-030 (Jenson, Adib-Yazdi, Horton, Hosmer)

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to enter into a contract with UHY Advisors Mid-Atlantic, Inc., for the purpose of providing internal audit services for the not to exceed price of $435,068.31.

Jody Vernon, Assistant Director of Finance and Comptroller, provided a brief overview of the proposed. She noted at the conclusion of the contract cycle with the previous internal audit provider, Forvis Mazars, the Finance Department issued a request for proposals (RFP) for internal auditing services. She added six responses to the RFP were received. Ms. Vernon noted an Evaluation Committee comprised of David Holtmann and herself initially evaluated the proposals, and the top three firms were invited to meet with the City Council Finance and Administration Committee in early December. She added based on the final evaluation and scoring from the committee, as well as input from the Finance and Administration Committee members, UHY Advisors was recommended as the internal audit provider.

An opportunity was given for citizens to express their views. With no appearances, the public hearing was declared closed.

15. PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES AND COMMUNICATIONS.

15.1. Four Twenty Jim wishes to address City Council.

Did Not Appear.

15.2. Alejandra De Olivera wishes to address City Council.

Did Not Appear.

15.3. Matt Morrow wishes to address City Council.

Matt Morrow, president/CEO of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, addressed City Council. Mr. Morrow noted at their annual meeting they spoke about ambitious goals for regional GDP growth and talent retention and attraction by the end of the decade. He expressed his belief those goals were important because a stronger tax base to support public safety, infrastructure, schools, libraries, parks, and the arts and tourism was necessary. He further expressed his belief they wanted more jobs with better pay and more real opportunity for citizens. He added they wanted more individuals to choose Springfield as home, and enough housing so that rising incomes were not swallowed by rising costs. He further expressed his belief life could be better for everyone if these goals were met.

Mr. Morrow expressed his belief in reaching those goals, the City needed investment such as housing, industry, retail, and office space. He further expressed his belief a problem that was largely unique to Springfield and threatened the long-term prosperity was uncertainty created by using ballot referendum to overturn zoning cases or to threaten to overturn zoning cases. He clarified every voice in the process mattered, but expressed his belief the zoning referendum went beyond protecting voices and removed zoning authority from elected representatives.

He further expressed his belief they introduced a higher level of uncertainty that discouraged investment. He noted the Chamber's position was that greater clarity would benefit all, and complex zoning decisions were best made by elected officials. He expressed his belief the City had robust protections in place, such as a requirement for neighborhood meetings, time to speak to the issue, and protest petitions.

Mr. Morrow noted the City and the Chamber of Commerce were longstanding partners. He expressed his belief partnership meant mutual support and mutual accountability. He further expressed his belief partnership did not mean either party needed permission to advocate for constituents, legislative priorities, or a healthy business climate.

Councilmember Jenson agreed that they could agree to disagree and still respect each other. He noted having respect for the work at the Springfield Chamber of Commerce. He noted having a conversation regarding House Bill 2847. He asked Mr. Morrow what he meant by being a partner in progress. Mr. Morrow responded he believed it involved mutual support and mutual accountability. He added the support of this kind of initiative or clarity at the State level was an effort to provide mutual support. Mr. Morrow expressed his belief it was appropriate to seek clarity at the State level and court proceedings also sought clarity in this way. He expressed his belief Representative Knight was not only hearing from the Chamber on this issue.

Councilmember Jenson thanked Mr. Morrow for clarifying the bill was filed at the request of the Chamber. Mr. Morrow responded that they did not tell legislators or elected officials what to do, but they advocate and request dialogue around an issue. Councilmember Jenson noted he had the privilege of attending many Chamber meetings and discussions over the last several years regarding the development of regional legislative priorities. He further noted in those meetings, a discussion was included regarding the importance of keeping decisions local, whether that would be schools, healthcare, or taxation. He added it was recognized collectively with all of the business interests and City Council members that were there, that local control would result in the best future. Councilmember Jenson noted they had differing opinions on this section of the Charter, but the Charter was the collective voice of 75 years and further noted he did not take it lightly whenever there was legislation filed seeking to undercut
rather than trying to facilitate a conversation locally.

Mr. Morrow expressed his belief it was appropriate to gain clarity about how State law related to an issue, which did not mean lack of support for local control. Councilmember Jenson expressed his belief a transparent and consistent response one would expect from a century-long partner like the Chamber would have been to actively call for a charter amendment or support a resolution in the judicial system. Councilmember Jenson expressed his belief the threshold for referendums was low due to voter turnout. He further expressed his belief a way to be a good partner would be to drive increased voter turnout.

Councilmember Hosmer expressed his belief a collaborative approach would be more beneficial. He added it was appropriate to seek clarity, but this particular legislation did not simply say whether or not something met the law. He expressed his belief it was legislation telling the City it could no longer do referendums for zoning cases. Mr. Morrow expressed his belief that was a difference of opinion.

Councilmember Carroll expressed her belief it was important to point out the Chamber's priorities listed on their website stated the Chamber supported improving the existing initiative petition system, including a higher threshold to amend the State constitution while ensuring a fair and transparent process. She further noted that had existed for some time.

Councilmember McGull noted the Chamber did not necessarily work concurrently with the City, and they could advocate for things at times that were beyond the City. He noted the City was created by the State. He added this required the City review the issue whether it was valid or not.

Mr. Morrow noted they wanted to partner with the City on good solutions and believed they were advocating for something consistent with the position the City had taken. He further noted if this was not the case, they would need to regroup and have that conversation.

15.4. Linda Hickson wishes to address City Council.

Did Not Appear.

16. NEW BUSINESS.

16.1. As per RSMo. 109.230 (4), City records that are on file in the City Clerk’s office and have met the retention schedule will be destroyed in compliance with the guidelines established by the Secretary of State’s Office.

16.2. The Mayor recommends the following reappointments to the Mayor's Commission for Children: Dr. Thomas Masterson and Christen Davis, with terms to expire November 29, 2028. Recommended.

16.3. The Mayor recommends the following appointment to the Mayor's Commission for Children: Thomas Todd with term to expire November 29, 2028. Recommended.

16.4. The Mayor recommends the following appointment to the Mayor's Commission for Children: Rebekah Davis with term to expire November 29, 2026. Recommended.

16.5. The Mayor recommends the following reappointment to the Tree City USA Citizen Advisory Committee: Robert McDaniel with term to expire December 1, 2028. Recommended.

16.6. The Mayor recommends the following appointment to the Tree City USA Citizen Advisory Committee: Dr. Kevin Ray Evans with term to expire December 1, 2028. Recommended.

16.7. The Public Involvement Committee recommends the following appointment to the Citizens Advisory Committee for Community Development: Jacinda Warren with term to expire May 1, 2028. Recommended.

16.8. The Public Involvement Committee recommends the following appointment to the Landmarks Board: Lisa Napoli-Meagher with term to expire November 1, 2026. Recommended.

16.9. The Public Involvement Committee recommends the following reappointments to the Personnel Board: Robert Brown and Jessika Ricci with terms to expire March 1, 2029. Recommended.

17. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

18. MISCELLANEOUS.

19. CONSENT AGENDA – FIRST READING BILLS. See Item #3.

19.1. Council Bill 2026-031 (Horton)
A special ordinance authorizing the Director of Planning and Development to accept the dedication of public streets and easements to the City of Springfield, Missouri, as shown on the Preliminary Plat of Partnership Industrial Center West, Phase 14, generally located at 1200 North Haseltine Road, upon the applicant filing and recording a final plat that substantially conforms to the preliminary plat; and authorizing the City Clerk to sign the final plat upon compliance with all the terms of this Ordinance.

19.2. Council Bill 2026-032 (Adib-Yazdi)
A special ordinance authorizing the City of Springfield to dispose of approximately 0.05 acres of property generally located at 2577 South Fremont Avenue.

20. CONSENT AGENDA – ONE READING BILLS.

21. CONSENT AGENDA – SECOND READING BILLS.

22. END OF CONSENT AGENDA.

23. ADJOURN.

Councilmember Jenson moved to adjourn. Councilmember Lee seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Mayor Pro Tem Hardinger, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Adib-Yazdi, and Mayor Schrag. Nays: Councilmember McGull and Councilmember Hosmer. Absent: Councilmember Horton. Abstain: None.

Prepared by: Michelle Kaasa

Anita J. Cotter

Anita J. Cotter, MMC/MPCC City Clerk