



City of Springfield

Agenda

City Council Special Meeting

Jeff Schrag, Mayor

**Zone Councilmembers**

Monica Horton, Zone 1  
Abe McGull, Zone 2  
Brandon Jenson, Zone 3  
Bruce Adib-Yazdi, Zone 4

**General Councilmembers**

Heather Hardinger, General A  
Craig Hosmer, General B  
Callie Carroll, General C  
Derek Lee, General D

---

June 29, 2026

11:30 AM

Councilman Denny Wayne  
Conference Room  
Busch Building, 4th Floor  
840 Boonville Avenue

---

[Rules and procedures.](#)

**1. ROLL CALL**

1.1. Special Meeting Notice

**2. SECOND READING AND FINAL PASSAGE**

Citizens have spoken. May be voted on.

2.1. Council Bill 2026-147 (Schrag)

A special ordinance delaying the acceptance and processing of applications relating to the evaluation, establishment, servicing, or expansion of a data center facility for a period of approximately one hundred twenty (120) days; providing an exception for acceptance of processing of an application under certain circumstances; and directing the City Manager to provide a report on any recommended actions to address the unique characteristics, demands, and potential cumulative effects of data center development.

**3. ADJOURN**



June 24, 2026

SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE  
of the  
SPRINGFIELD CITY COUNCIL

TO: All Members of City Council

IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 2-32 OF THE SPRINGFIELD CITY CODE, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL IS HEREBY CALLED FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSE:

1. **ROLL CALL.**
2. **SECOND READING AND FINAL PASSAGE.**

Citizens have spoken. May be voted on.

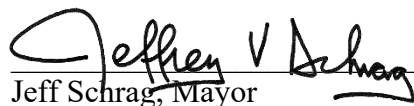
2.1 Council Bill 2026-147 (Schrag)

A special ordinance delaying the acceptance and processing of applications relating to the evaluation, establishment, servicing, or expansion of a data center facility for a period of approximately one hundred twenty (120) days; providing an exception for acceptance of processing of an application under certain circumstances; and directing the City Manager to provide a report on any recommended actions to address the unique characteristics, demands, and potential cumulative effects of data center development.

3. **ADJOURN.**

---

SAID MEETING SHALL BE HELD beginning at **11:30 a.m. on Monday, June 29, 2026**, and is to be held at the Busch Municipal Building (Denny Wayne Conference Room, 4<sup>th</sup> floor), 840 N. Boonville Ave.

  
Jeff Schrag, Mayor



## EXPLANATION TO COUNCIL BILL 2026-147 (SCHRAG)

**FILED:** 06/24/2026

**ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT:** Law

**TITLE:** A special ordinance delaying the acceptance and processing of applications relating to the evaluation, establishment, servicing, or expansion of a data center facility for a period of approximately one hundred twenty (120) days; providing an exception for acceptance of processing of an application under certain circumstances; and directing the City Manager to provide a report on any recommended actions to address the unique characteristics, demands, and potential cumulative effects of data center development.

**PURPOSE:** Delaying the acceptance and processing of applications relating to the evaluation, establishment, servicing, or expansion of a data center facility for a period of approximately one hundred twenty (120) days; directing the City Manager to direct staff to take all necessary actions to review, take public input, and prepare recommendations to address data center development; providing an exception for acceptance of processing of an application under certain circumstances; and directing the City Manager to provide a report on any recommended actions to address the unique characteristics, demands, and potential cumulative effects of data center development.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** Interest in data center development is increasing nationwide and presents both potential economic development opportunities and complex policy considerations related to electric and water infrastructure, land use compatibility, environmental stewardship, public services, fiscal impacts, and community expectations. While Springfield's existing regulations provide a foundation for development review, they do not specifically address the unique operational characteristics and infrastructure demands associated with modern data centers. The purpose of the administrative delay, if Council chooses to enact it, is to provide time to develop comprehensive regulations guiding the development of data centers before developments begin to appear in existing zoning districts where they were never truly contemplated.

The proposed administrative delay would provide the City with the opportunity to gather information, evaluate best practices, engage stakeholders, and establish a transparent and predictable framework for future projects. During the review period, staff would assess potential impacts and develop recommendations regarding zoning standards, infrastructure considerations, operational requirements, and community benefit expectations. The proposed administrative delay would expire on November 17, 2026, which allows the City Council to introduce a two-reading bill within 120 days of the passage of this Ordinance and take final action prior to the expiration of the delay.



**Submitted By:** Kyle Tolbert, Assistant City Attorney

**Authorized for inclusion on the agenda pursuant to City Code section 2-33:**  
Maurice S. Jones, Deputy City Manager

**Attachments:** 1. Data Center Administrative Delay\_ord

One-rdg. \_\_\_\_\_  
P. Hrngs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Pgs. 5  
Filed: 06-16-26

Sponsored by: Schrag

First Reading: \_\_\_\_\_

Second Reading: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNCIL BILL 2026-147

SPECIAL ORDINANCE \_\_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE

1 DELAYING the acceptance and processing of applications relating to the evaluation,  
2 establishment, servicing, or expansion of a data center facility for a period  
3 of approximately one hundred twenty (120) days; providing an exception  
4 for acceptance of processing of an application under certain  
5 circumstances; and directing the City Manager to provide a report on any  
6 recommended actions to address the unique characteristics, demands,  
7 and potential cumulative effects of data center development.  
8  
9

10 WHEREAS, data center facilities can have significant impacts on infrastructure,  
11 including demands on electrical power, water supply, and telecommunications  
12 networks, as well as potential impacts on surrounding land uses, natural resources,  
13 public services, and the character of the community; and  
14

15 WHEREAS, the City of Springfield Land Development Code does not currently  
16 contain specific regulations, standards, or definitions addressing the unique  
17 characteristics, demands and potential cumulative effects of data center facilities, which  
18 are a rapidly growing and evolving land use across the United States; and  
19

20 WHEREAS, because of possible effects of data centers on the community,  
21 including but not limited to impacts to the provision of electric power and water by the  
22 Board of Public Utilities, the City Council intends to consider revisions to the City Code  
23 and other standards designed to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the  
24 community; and  
25

26 WHEREAS, the City Council finds that a temporary administrative delay in the  
27 acceptance or processing of applications relating to the evaluation, establishment,  
28 servicing, or expansion of data center facilities is necessary to ensure planned, orderly  
29 development of data center facilities consistent with the character and welfare of the  
30 City by enacting appropriate regulations; and  
31

32 WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that it is necessary to temporarily  
33 suspend acceptance or processing of applications relating to the evaluation,

34 establishment, servicing, or expansion of data center facilities, including the extension  
35 of utilities, while appropriate regulations, standards and definitions may be developed  
36 through a comprehensive public process involving the Planning and Zoning  
37 Commission and the City Council; and

38  
39 WHEREAS, a temporary delay in the acceptance and processing of  
40 applications will allow City staff the necessary time to study the issue and make  
41 recommendations to the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council regarding  
42 revisions to the City Code and other standards related to data centers, and ensure  
43 consistency and fairness by preventing uses that could undermine a comprehensive  
44 zoning plan, whether they be located within or outside city limits.

45  
46 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
47 SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI, as follows, that:

48  
49 Section 1 – City Council makes and reaffirms the findings set forth above and  
50 incorporates the same by reference as if fully set forth herein.

51  
52 Section 2 – City Council hereby directs, upon passage of this Ordinance, that  
53 no application pertaining to the evaluation, establishment, servicing, or expansion of a  
54 data center, including, but not limited to, applications for building permits, site plan and  
55 architectural reviews, variances, stormwater permits, conditional use permits,  
56 occupancy permits, provision of public utilities, or large load applications for electric  
57 service may be accepted or processed by the City, including its Board of Public Utilities,  
58 for a period ending on November 17, 2026. If the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) has  
59 begun studies related to a proposed facility, and fees have been submitted to the Board  
60 of Public Utilities along with a large load application for electric service, processing of  
61 that application may continue to the extent necessary to fulfill SPP’s requirements as to  
62 those studies.

63  
64 Section 3 – City Council hereby directs the City Manager, or his designee, to  
65 direct staff to take all necessary actions to complete the review of the development  
66 issues created by data centers, to take public input, and to prepare, for City Council’s  
67 consideration, a report regarding any recommended actions to address the unique  
68 characteristics, demands, and potential cumulative effects of data center development  
69 within ninety (90) days.

70  
71 Section 4 – For the purposes of this ordinance, “data center” shall mean a  
72 building, group of buildings, facility or premise whose primary use is the storage,  
73 management, processing, and/or transmission of digital data and is typically used to  
74 house computer systems, network equipment, servers, and associated accessory  
75 components, such as, but not limited to, air handlers, power generators, cooling  
76 systems, backup power systems, battery storage, central processing units, graphical  
77 processing units, neural networks, quantum bits, quantum processors, memory, data  
78 routing, data storage, data warehouse, server farm, bitcoin mining, crypto processing,  
79 virtual private networks, virtual servers, artificial intelligence training or processing,

80 image processing, cloud computing, email servicing, a telecom hotel, telehouse  
81 colocation, or any other term applicable to facilities which are used for such purposes.  
82 Such facilities may sometimes also be referred to as Digital Infrastructure Facilities,  
83 Hyperscale Data Centers, Industrial Scale Computing Facilities, Colocation Data  
84 Centers, Enterprise Data Centers, or High Performance Data Processing Facilities.  
85

86 For the purposes of this ordinance, "primary use" means the systems,  
87 equipment, servers, and components collectively used for the storage, management,  
88 processing and/or transmission of digital data (a) have an expected peak demand in  
89 excess of 5 megawatts (MW) of electricity, (b) consumes 50% or greater of the total  
90 electric power consumption of the development, or (c) is 50% or greater of the square  
91 footage of the facility and shall be determined by the amount of square footage of the  
92 building utilized for a data center as compared to the square footage of the structure in  
93 active use for other permitted commercial, business or office space. In determining  
94 square footage for primary use, the square footage of any structure which is vacant or  
95 otherwise dedicated to warehouse or storage activities shall be allocated to the square  
96 footage of that portion of the facility proposed to be utilized as a data center.  
97

98 Section 5 - The City Council may, by resolution, allow the processing of an  
99 application for the evaluation, establishment, servicing, or expansion of a data center if  
100 the City Council determines the proposed application complies with all existing and  
101 foreseeable planned city regulations, adequate infrastructure exists (or will exist at the  
102 completion of the project) to provide necessary city services related to the application,  
103 and consideration of such application will not, in the Council's sole discretion, be  
104 otherwise detrimental to the health, safety, and general welfare of the city.  
105


106 Section 6 – This Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon adoption.  
107

108 Passed at meeting: \_\_\_\_\_  
109

110 \_\_\_\_\_  
111 Mayor  
112

113 Attest: \_\_\_\_\_, City Clerk  
114

115  
116 Filed as Resolution: \_\_\_\_\_  
117

118 Approved as to form:  \_\_\_\_\_, Assistant City Attorney  
119

120  
121 Approved for Council action:  \_\_\_\_\_, City Manager  
122