

October 18, 2021
Springfield, Missouri

The City Council met in regular session October 18, 2021 in the Council Chambers at Historic City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ken McClure. A moment of silence was observed.

Roll Call

Present: Andrew Lear, Heather Hardinger, Angela Romine, Abe McGull, Mike Schilling, Matthew Simpson, Craig Hosmer, Richard Ollis, and Ken McClure. Absent: None.

Minutes

The minutes of October 4, 2021 City Council meeting, October 5, 2021 special City Council meeting, and October 12, 2021 special City Council meeting were approved as presented.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda was approved as presented.

The following items appeared on the agenda under Ceremonial Matters.

Barbara Garcia was sworn-in to the Springfield/Greene County Environmental Advisory Board.

Derek White was sworn-in to the Board of Equalization.

Mayor McClure thanked both for their service.

City Manager Report

Jason Gage, City Manager noted the Springfield Fire Department successfully completed the third week of fire prevention month by visiting 44 public and private schools and meeting with over 9,000 students to discuss fire safety. Fire companies will visit schools throughout the month of October and send materials home for students to share with their parents. Mr. Gage further noted the Springfield Fire Department broke ground on the City's thirteenth fire station last week. The location of the fire station is in the 1900 block of West College Street will be operational by fall of 2022. Mr. Gage thanked Mayor McClure and Mayor Pro Tem Simpson for attending the groundbreaking.

Mr. Gage thanked Taj Suleyman, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for his keynote speech at the NAACP banquet over the weekend. Mr. Gage expressed thanks to Mr. Suleyman and the award winners for their contributions and efforts toward a more inclusive Springfield.

Mr. Gage noted on Friday, October 1, 2021 the Springfield Police Department welcomed two new officers into the ranks after graduating from our 19th Lateral Police Academy. The new graduates were honored with a ceremony at the Springfield Regional Police and Fire Training Center. He explained a lateral officer is an experienced officer who came from another law enforcement agency and attends an abbreviated academy at the Springfield Regional Police and Fire Training Center. During the lateral academy, they receive six weeks (240 hours) of training to become

acclimated to Springfield and the Springfield Police Department (SPD). After graduation, the officers are assigned to an experienced field-training officer for six weeks of on-the-job training. Once that's completed, they will be assigned to SPD's Uniform Operations Bureau. Officer Kristen Spears comes to SPD from Anchorage Police Department and Officer Ethan Leasman comes from the New York City Police Department. Mr. Gage expressed congratulations to each of our newest officers.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson asked for clarification regarding any updates to police officer recruiting. Mr. Gage noted he will give an update in the afternoon session at the City Council Retreat on Wednesday, October 20, 2021.

Councilman McGull thanked Mr. Gage for providing the 24-hour arrest reports to City Council. Mr. Gage noted there are 40 jail spaces available for municipal needs and there is a contingency plan for jail space.

The following bills appeared on the agenda under Second Reading Bills.

**Rezoning; 2625
West Delmar
Street, 1025 and
1045 South Clifton
Avenue, and 2620
West Grand Street**

Sponsor: Schilling Council Bill 2021-246.

A general ordinance amending the Springfield Land Development Code, Section 36-306, 'Official zoning map and rules for interpretation,' by rezoning approximately 3.3 acres of property generally located at 2625 West Delmar Street, 1025 and 1045 South Clifton Avenue, and 2620 West Grand Street from Planned Development No. 269 to Planned Development No. 378; and adopting an updated Official Zoning Map. (Planning and Zoning Commission and Staff recommend approval.) (By: Simmons First National Bank; 2625 W. Delmar Street, 1025 & 1045 S. Clifton Avenue and 2620 W. Grand Street; PD 378)

Council Bill 2021-246. General Ordinance 6688 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: McGull, Schilling, Simpson, Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, Romine, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

**Amending General
Ordinance 6662;
Grand Avenue
Parkway District**

Sponsor: Schilling. Council Bill 2021-256.

A general ordinance amending General Ordinance 6662, which rezoned approximately 72.33 acres of property generally located adjacent to Grant Avenue between College Street and Catalpa Street to the Grant Avenue Parkway District, and which is referenced as Zoning Case Z-11-2021, to correct the legal descriptions of Subdistricts B and C within the Grant Avenue Parkway District. (City of Springfield; 465 S. Grant Avenue (Part of the Grant Avenue Parkway District); Z-11-2021-Corrected)

Council Bill 2021-256. General Ordinance 6689 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: McGull, Schilling, Simpson, Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, Romine, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

Intergovernmental Agreement; Ozarks Technical Community College and City of Springfield Fire Department	Sponsor: Hardinger. Council Bill 2021-257. A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Ozarks Technical Community College for the provision of professional equivalency credit for eligible sworn personnel of the City of Springfield Fire Department. Mayor Pro Tem Simpson recused himself and exited chambers. Council Bill 2021-257. General Ordinance 27588 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: McGull, Schilling, Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, Romine, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: Simpson. Abstain: None. Mayor Pro Tem Simpson returned to the dais.
Wastewater Service; Mutual Aid Agreement; City of Battlefield	Sponsor: Hosmer. Council Bill 2021-258. A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to enter into a Wastewater Service Contract and Mutual Aid Agreement with the City of Battlefield for the purpose of continuing to provide contract wastewater service to Battlefield. Council Bill 2021-258. General Ordinance 27589 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, Romine, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.
Apply for American Rescue Plan Good Jobs Challenge Grant	The following bills appeared on the agenda under Resolutions. Sponsor: Hosmer. Council Bill 2021-261. A resolution authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to apply for the American Rescue Plan Good Jobs Challenge Grant from the United States Economic Development Administration in the amount of up to \$17,500,000 to implement projects needed to provide workforce training and connect local citizens with quality jobs. Sally Payne, Director of Workforce Development provided an overview of the proposed. Ms. Payne explained the grant will provide training in healthcare, transportation logistics, and childcare with an entrepreneurial component. The grant is effective until 2027. Ms. Payne noted success is heavily reliant on employer support and training will be provided in sectors necessary to recovery of the economy. Mayor McClure asked for clarification regarding the amount of money provided through the grant. Ms. Payne noted there is no match required and the grant is highly competitive. The grant ceiling is \$25,000,000 and \$17,500,000 is the amount Workforce Development requested. Ms. Payne further noted her enthusiasm as the EDA does not usually fund job training.

Councilwoman Romine asked for clarification regarding special provisions for coronavirus vaccine requirements and sustainable employment. Ms. Payne noted vaccine requirements are not addressed in the grant at this time, and given the regional partners involved, they feel it will not be a concern. She also noted, Workforce Development was mindful to choose sectors where there are shortages or need for employees. Councilwoman Romine inquired about the career path requirement, the City's need for the planning phase of the grant, and development of a high wage workforce which includes under serviced populations. Ms. Payne explained there is an upward career path element to the grant. The grant will encourage inclusion of counties in high poverty areas and Workforce Development will not utilize the planning phase but go directly to implementation of the grant. Ms. Payne further noted employer partnerships will be key to development of high wage employment. She will work closely with the regional office to be competitive. Ms. Payne explained there is no cost to the City and Workforce Development will be mindful of the points system when applying to maximize points awarded.

Councilman Lear expressed his enthusiasm for the grant and his belief it is a duty to our taxpayers to apply for federal dollars when available. Councilman Lear noted the need for workforce training and expressed his thanks to Ms. Payne and her department for their work.

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

Council Bill 2021-261. Resolution 10601 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Romine, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

Mobility Study

Sponsor: McClure. Council Bill 2021-262.

A resolution authorizing Councilman Richard Ollis to participate in a mobility study tour hosted by LaneShift, LLC, in Austin, Texas from November 15, 2021, through November 19, 2021.

Rhonda Lewsader, City Attorney gave an overview of the proposed. The bill originally was approved for Councilman Ollis to attend in New York City, New York in 2019. This study was cancelled due to COVID-19. The study tour was rescheduled for November 15 through November 19, 2021 in Austin, Texas. Under the City Charter, a council member may only be reimbursed for expenses if pre-approved by Council.

Councilman Hosmer asked for clarification regarding the cost to taxpayers. Councilman Hosmer noted his concern with approving a study tour without knowledge of cost or expenses previously incurred by Council. He further noted this action could create a violation of city code. Ms. Lewsader read a portion of the code that stated council members cannot be reimbursed above \$2400 per year for qualifying expenses. Councilman Hosmer explained he has not previously received expense information which would be necessary for a vote. Ms. Lewsader noted the trip has not occurred, so no expenses have been incurred to date. She further noted, a motion

could be made to amend the Resolution to state no more than \$2400 can be reimbursed for the trip dependent upon any previous reimbursement that had been received.

Jason Gage, City Manager explained there was an accounting expense information report generated and provided previously. He will review what was provided to council to ensure it was the information requested.

Councilman McGull noted the code mentioned addressed reimbursement for a councilmember but did not address sending a council member on a trip. Ms. Lewsader noted the City does not prepay expenses. She explained in City Charter Article 2, Section 2.3, Subsection 1, Council shall receive no salary, but shall be reimbursed for any necessary expenses incurred in connection with their duties as provided by ordinance or resolution of the Council prior to incurring such expenses.

Councilman Lear asked for clarification regarding pre-payment versus reimbursement. Mr. Gage noted conference costs are commonly prepaid, but reimbursement is generally milage and meals. He stated this section of the code will be reviewed by the Law Department.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson expressed there is value in attending a study. Mayor Pro Tem Simpson noted he would support this study.

Councilman Ollis noted the trip appears to have become controversial. Mr. Ollis expressed his hope the study would be viewed as positive for the City and wished to go in service to the community. He expressed his opinion the City should review policy regarding sending councilmembers to gain information. Councilman Ollis expressed his appreciation for the attention given to the trip thus far and requested sponsorship be withdrawn. Mayor McClure withdrew his sponsorship of the proposed.

EMERGENCY BILLS

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

The following bill appeared on the agenda under Grants.

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Covid-19 and Adult Supplemental grant funds

Sponsor: Hosmer. Council Bill 2021-263.

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to enter into a contract with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services for the purpose of accepting additional COVID-19 and Adult Vaccination Supplemental grant funds in the amount of \$331,225 for use by the Springfield-Greene County Health Department; amending the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget in the amount of \$331,225 for the purpose of appropriating the grant funds; and declaring that this bill qualifies for approval in one reading.

Katie Towns, Director of Health gave an overview of the proposed. Ms. Towns noted the funds are an ongoing contract with the state to provide funds to promote and

administer COVID-19 vaccines in the community. The funds would allow for expansion and equitable distribution of the vaccine, increase vaccine confidence through outreach, and implement strategies to increase uptake.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson asked if funds are being utilized for the new vaccination site. Ms. Towns answered affirmatively. She noted the grant will also allow for outreach, booster vaccinations, and first and second doses of the vaccination.

Councilman Lear asked for clarification regarding flu shots being available at the site. Ms. Towns noted flu vaccination availability is being evaluated.

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

Council Bill 2021-263. Ordinance 27590 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: McGull, Schilling, Simpson, Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, and McClure. Nays: Romine. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

AMENDED BILLS

PUBLIC HEARING

The following bills appeared on the agenda under First Reading Bills.

Expansion of Service for Wrap Around Care Program

Sponsor: McGull. Council Bill 2021-264

A special ordinance amending the Park Board's Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Operating Budget in the amount of \$294,450 to appropriate the grant funds from the Board of Education for Springfield School District R-12's Expansion of Service for Wrap Around Care Program for youth attending elementary and middle schools, made possible by \$3.4 million in Coronavirus Relief Funds, to be used in and as part of Park Board's SPARC Before and After-School Programs.

Lana Woolsey, Assistant City Attorney gave an overview of the proposed. Ms. Woolsey explained the bill will appropriate grant funds that were offered through the district's before and after school programs. The programs are designed to address learning loss for students that are disproportionately affected by COVID-19.

Councilwoman Romine asked for clarification on transportation issues affecting school aged children. Jason Gage, City Manager noted there is a staffing shortage for transportation. Mr. Gage noted these staffing shortages create challenges across the community.

Councilman McGull expressed it is a great opportunity anytime we can have before and after school programs to enhance learning. Councilman McGull noted he is in support of this bill and asked for Council support as well.

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

**Brownfields
Program
Revolving Loan
Fund Policies and
Procedures**

Sponsor: Ollis. Council Bill 2021-265

A special ordinance amending and restating the Brownfields Program Revolving Loan Fund Policies and Procedures to increase program flexibility and adjust loan terms and conditions to reflect current lending market conditions.

Olivia Huff, Senior City Planner gave an overview of the proposed. She explained the goal of the program is to incentivize environmental cleanup of petroleum and hazardous sites and to provide grants and loans for cleanup or demolition. Ms. Huff noted current challenges are the cost increase of labor, increase in interested borrowers, low interest rates, and time given to comply with federal requirements. She explained the amendment will replace the current interest rate schedule and update language for consistency with the new Economic Vitality Department.

Councilman Schilling asked for clarification regarding how much has been spent to date. Ms. Huff noted they have received 2 million dollars, 1.5 million dollars has been loaned or sub-granted out, and there is currently approximately 1 million dollars available to loan out. Sub-grants can only account for fifty percent of the funds and they are currently looking to make loans. Ms. Huff noted the State and Federal tax credits are now much more difficult to obtain. Councilman Schilling requested to receive information regarding the amount that has been spent to date.

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

**Sale and Delivery
of Taxable Special
Obligation
Refunding Bonds**

Sponsor: Simpson. Council Bill 2021-266.

A special ordinance authorizing and directing the issuance, sale and delivery by the City of Springfield, Missouri, of Taxable Special Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2021A, in a principal amount not to exceed \$3,000,000 for the purpose of providing funds to refund the Refunded Bonds (as defined below); authorizing and approving certain documents in connection with the issuance of the Bonds; authorizing certain other documents and actions in connection therewith; and declaring an emergency.

Mayor McClure asked for clarification regarding the declaration of emergency language in the bill. He asked if the bill could be amended, in the event the numbers change, without delaying the vote. Rhonda Lewsader, City Attorney answered affirmatively.

David Holtman, Director of Finance gave an overview of the proposed. Mr. Holtman noted this bill will produce an average savings of 19% which totals approximately \$500,000 over the remaining term of the bonds. Mr. Holtman noted that he will be bringing sewer bonds over the next few meetings which will bring additional savings.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson thanked Mr. Holtman and his department for their work.

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

**School Crossing
Guard Program**

Sponsor: Lear. Council Bill 2021-267.

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to amend the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Springfield and the School District of Springfield R-12 to share the costs of a third-party vendor to operate a school crossing guard program inside the city limits of Springfield.

Collin Quigley, Deputy City Manager gave an overview of the proposed. Mr. Quigley noted this bill authorizes the City Manager to sign the addendum intergovernmental agreement between the city and the school district for the school crossing guard program. Mr. Quigley further noted there are changes that need to be made regarding crossing locations, indemnity and liability, and cost sharing.

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

The following items appeared on the agenda under Petitions, Remonstrances, and Communications.

Appeared

Josephine Grace addressed City Council. Ms. Grace spoke about Directed Energy Weapons. She expressed her belief these weapons are used without citizen consent and contribute to proliferation of crime in Springfield. Ms. Grace cited several examples and asked Council to consider amending City Ordinance 78-257 to prohibit Directed Energy Weapons.

Did Not Appear

Daryl Baker did not appear to address City Council.

Did Not Appear

Phillip Chrosen did not appear to address City Council.

Appeared

Susan Carter addressed City Council. She expressed her concerns involving health freedoms. Ms. Carter noted she would address Resolution 2021-213. Ms. Carter expressed her opinion the narrative that the unvaccinated are fueling the pandemic is false. She cited sources that provided information expressing hospitalizations due to COVID-19 were primarily the fully vaccinated.

Appeared

David Brown addressed City Council. Mr. Brown spoke to Council regarding excessive noise in his downtown neighborhood on Walnut Street. He explained he has recorded decibel levels from his home over the last few months. Normal decibel level for downtown is approximately 60-65. The decibel levels in the evening at his home have been 80 or higher. Mr. Brown explained there have been events that were higher than 90 decibels or one every ten minutes with one every 30 minutes being above 100 decibels. He expressed his opinion the muffler laws in Missouri are vague.

Councilman McGull asked for clarification regarding the time of the recordings. Mr. Brown noted the time of recordings was taken on average from 5:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. each night. The heaviest time was between 9:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Motorcycles are predominantly racing from the square. Mr. Brown suggested making South Avenue a one-way street, placing blockades at a certain time at night. Councilman McGull expressed he would like the square closed to traffic at night.

Councilman Schilling noted a picture he received from another citizen showed smoke from the motorcyclists revving their engines. He further noted another tenant had provided a picture with a time stamp of activity at 1:57 a.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson noted the motorcycle group is known to City Council and these groups can be a safety issue due to speed and aggressive driving.

Councilman Ollis thanked Mr. Brown for speaking to Council. Councilman Ollis noted other citizens have voiced their concern with the issue of noise and safety with motorcycle groups in the area. He encouraged the City to look at some engineering to reduce the problems with this issue.

Jason Gage, City Manager noted to legally cite the vehicles, an officer must witness and apprehend the vehicle operator. Police Chief Williams is aware, and the issue is a formal adopted priority of City Council for which strategies will be reviewed.

Councilman Lear asked Mr. Brown the length of time he has lived downtown. Councilman Lear expressed his opinion when you live downtown you accept some level of noise. He further expressed his agreement engineering solutions could alleviate some of the noise and safety issues. Mr. Brown noted he accepts there will be some noise in an urban area but the level of the noise from vehicles has escalated to an unacceptable level.

Councilman Hosmer asked for clarification regarding if the motorcycles in question appeared to be street legal. Mr. Brown noted he believed so but had not looked that close. He added his opinion the noise issues are from cars and motorcycles.

Appeared

Jim Meadows addressed City Council. Mr. Meadows thanked City Council and staff for approaching the last eighteen months with the best interest of the public at heart and with compassion for all citizens. He acknowledged Springfield has overcome many obstacles through the years yet perseveres. Mr. Meadows encouraged City Council to keep up the good work. Mayor McClure thanked Mr. Meadows.

The following items appeared on the agenda under New Business.

Appointed

The City Manager recommends the following reappointment to the Art Museum Board: Matt Edwards, with a term to expire June 1, 2024.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MISCELLANEOUS

CONSENT AGENDA FIRST READING BILLS

The following bills appeared on the agenda under Consent Agenda One Reading Bills.

**Tax Increment
Financing
Advisory
Commission**

Sponsor: Hardinger. Council Bill 2021-268.

A resolution approving the Mayor's appointment of two members to the Tax Increment Financing Advisory Commission and acknowledging the appointments made by other taxing jurisdictions.

Council Bill 2021-268. Special Ordinance 10602 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Romine, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

**Native Plant
Establishment and
Enhancement for
"Renew Jordan
Creek Project"**

Sponsor: Schilling. Council Bill 2021-269.

A resolution authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to apply for state grant funds in the amount of \$30,000 from the Missouri Department of Conservation in order to support native plant establishment and enhancement for the "Renew Jordan Creek" Project and to exercise those powers necessary to obtain such funding.

Council Bill 2021-269. Special Ordinance 10603 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Romine, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

CONSENT AGENDA SECOND READING BILLS

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to Adjourn

Councilman McGull moved to Adjourn. Councilwoman Romine seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote. Ayes: McGull, Schilling, Simpson, Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.



Anita J. Cotter, CMC/MRCC
City Clerk

Prepared by
Michelle Brown