

December 13, 2021
Springfield, Missouri

The City Council met in regular session December 13, 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, particularly remembering Missouri State Highway Patrol Trooper Colton Beck who was injured in the line of duty and remembering our K-12 and college students who are completing the fall semester.

- Roll Call** Present: Abe McGull, Mike Schilling, Matthew Simpson, Craig Hosmer, Richard Ollis, Andrew Lear, Heather Hardinger, Angela Romine, and Ken McClure. Absent: None.
- Minutes** The minutes of November 29, 2021 City Council Meeting, November 30, 2021 Special City Council Meeting and December 6, 2021 Special City Council Meeting, were approved as presented.
- Consent Agenda** The Consent Agenda was approved as presented.

CEREMONIAL MATTERS

- City Manager Report** Jason Gage, City Manager noted the Clean Green Springfield final results. In 2021, the City's Clean Green Springfield initiative, led by the Department of Public Information & Civic Engagement, attracted more than 1,300 participants to a variety of city-wide cleanup and beautification volunteer opportunities. Volunteers collected a total of 23 tons of litter from streets, streams, and neighborhoods. 200 tons (and counting) of trash and bulky items were disposed of or recycled through Clean Green special offers, accepting mattresses, tires, electronics and other bulky items and waste. With the help of Clean Green volunteers, 230 tons of trash was collected through 19 Neighborhood Cleanup events facilitated through Community Partnership of the Ozarks. Clean Green volunteers contributed more than 2,400 service hours to the community, accounting for \$68,496 in estimated value.

Mr. Gage further noted the Springfield Fire Department (SFD) has construction beginning on two new fire stations – Fire Station 4 and 13. During Fire Prevention Month activities, Firefighters provided age-appropriate education to 10,741 elementary and preschool students. Total Vaccinations Administered by SFD personnel numbered 1,479 over 56 total events, and with 32 total vaccinators.

Mr. Gage reported on Pedestrian Safety Compliance Checks. Over the last four years driver compliance at crosswalks has measurably increased. This year's "Yield Checks" have increased city-wide compliance to an all-time high of average of 63% in the third quarter of this year, with an increase of 5 percentage points compared to the fourth quarter in 2020.

Mr. Gage noted the Springfield Police Department is participating this month in a series of events titled "Shop with a Hero", which pairs selected children with police officers to be the recipients of a free Christmas shopping experience. These fun and encouraging events help under-resourced children receive something nice for

Christmas. He further noted the Economic Vitality Department received national recognition for its COVID-19 business assistance grant program that helped over 80 businesses weather the impacts of the pandemic.

Mr. Gage reported on the Springfield Christmas Parade. The City of Springfield had three floats and a fire truck in Saturday's annual Downtown Christmas Parade, hosted by the Downtown Springfield Association. Mayor Ken McClure and Council members Heather Hardinger, Mike Schilling and Matthew Simpson, road aboard an oversized replica of a 57 Chevy, pulled by reindeer. The float was built by Public Works and Public Information staff.

Mayor McClure thanked all that participated in the Clean Green Springfield program, noting it made a significant difference in our community.

Councilwoman Romine asked the status of adding crosswalks in the West Chesnut Expressway area. Mr. Gage noted there is a request for the Missouri Department of Transportation to place a crosswalk in the area. Mr. Gage will notify City Council when there is an update.

Councilwoman Romine asked about police initiatives to reduce crime. Mr. Gage noted the policing plan is early in the process.

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

Springfield City Code, 'City Limits;' and amending Section 46-1 of the Springfield City Code, 'Boundaries of wards, precincts and council zones

Sponsor: Schilling. Council Bill 2021-299

A general ordinance amending Section 1-9 of the Springfield City Code, 'City Limits;' and amending Section 46-1 of the Springfield City Code, 'Boundaries of wards, precincts and council zones;' for the purpose of annexing approximately 11.5 acres of private property and approximately 0.1 acre of Greene County right-of-way generally located at 1644, 1684, and 1706 South Zimmer Avenue (Farm Road 129) and 1721 South West Bypass, into the City of Springfield. (By; Bibi Development & Investment, LLC; 1644,1684, & 1706 Zimmer Avenue (Farm Road 129) and 1721 W. Bypass; A-6-2021).

Councilman Schilling asked if the two parcels to be annexed need to be connected. Brendan Greisemer, Acting Director of Planning and Development noted the two parcels being separate is acceptable, but they are working with a consultant to determine if the properties can be connected. Councilwoman Romine asked if there is a plan to connect the properties. Mr. Greisemer noted the current request is for the two parcels only.

Council Bill 2021-299. General Ordinance 6697 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, McGull, Simpson, and McClure. Nays: Romine and Schilling. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

**Amending the
Springfield Land
Development
Code, Section 36-
306, ‘Official
zoning map and
rules for
interpretation**

Sponsor: Schilling. Council Bill 2021-300

A general ordinance amending the Springfield Land Development Code, Section 36-306, ‘Official zoning map and rules for interpretation,’ by rezoning approximately 11.5 acres of property generally located at 1644, 1684, and 1706 South Zimmer Avenue (Farm Road 129) and 1721 South West Bypass from County C-2, General Commercial District, to GR, General Retail District; establishing Conditional Overlay District No. 205; and adopting an updated Official Zoning Map. (Staff and Planning and Zoning Commission both recommend approval.) (By: Bibi Development & Investment, LLC; 1644,1684, & 1706 Zimmer Avenue (Farm Road 129) and 1721 W. Bypass; Z-21-2021 w/COD #205).

Council Bill 2021-300. General Ordinance 6698 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, McGull, Simpson, and McClure. Nays: Romine and Schilling. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

**Conditional Use
Permit No. 457:
Automobile
Washing Business**

Sponsor: Simpson. Council Bill 2021-301

A special ordinance granting Conditional Use Permit No. 457 for the purpose of permitting an automobile washing business to operate as a conditional use within the GR – General Retail District, generally located at 211 West Battlefield Road. (Staff and Planning and Zoning Commission recommend approval.) (By: Choong Properties LLC; 211 West Battlefield Road; Conditional Use Permit 457).

Council Bill 2021-301. Special Ordinance 27610 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, Romine, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

**Conditional Use
Permit No. 458:
Body, Fender
Repair, and Paint
Shop**

Sponsor: Schilling. Council Bill 2021-302

A special ordinance granting Conditional Use Permit No. 458 for the purpose of permitting a body and fender repair and paint shop as a conditional use within the HC – Highway Commercial District, generally located at 1825 West Kingsley Street. (Staff and Planning and Zoning Commission recommend approval.) (By: Alcancia, Elpidio Y Rev Inter Vivos Trust; Conditional Use Permit 458)

Council Bill 2021-302. Special Ordinance 27611 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, Romine, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

**Springfield City
Code, Chapter 54,
Section 54-32;
Section 903.4.1**

Sponsor: Hosmer. Council Bill 2021-303

A general ordinance amending the Springfield City Code, Chapter 54, ‘Fire Prevention and Protection,’ Article II, ‘Fire Prevention Code,’ Section 54-32, ‘Amendments and additions,’ Section 903.4.1, relating to monitoring of sprinkler systems.

Council Bill 2021-303. General Ordinance 6699 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, Romine, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

**Springfield City
Code Chapter 106,
'Traffic and
Vehicles,'
amending Section
106-70**

Sponsor: Hosmer. Council Bill 2021-304

A general ordinance amending the Springfield City Code Chapter 106, 'Traffic and Vehicles,' by amending Section 106-70, 'Traffic division established; duties,' for the purpose of establishing a duty of the traffic division to respond to all reported traffic accidents on public streets or public property.

Councilman Schilling expressed his belief the proposed is a good idea, but the Police Department does not have the staff to implement at this time.

Councilwoman Romine expressed her support for the proposed, but the timing is wrong due to staffing issues in the Police Department.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson expressed his understanding police reports for every accident are desirable. Mr. Simpson noted the policy is for the Police Department to prioritize violent crime and injury accidents. He expressed his belief changing prioritization sends the wrong message.

Councilman Ollis noted he will vote against the bill as the department is short staffed and perhaps the issue can be taken up when fully staffed. He noted issue with a bill being constructed without staff input or Council Committee review.

Councilman Hosmer noted the reduction in citations written and an increase in the number of fatalities. He further noted by not responding to accidents, there is no opportunity for officers to interact with citizens. Mr. Hosmer expressed his belief proactive policing is necessary to reduce crime.

Councilman McGull noted his agreement with the basic concept of the proposed. He further noted the benefits to having an officer respond to accidents. Mr. McGull expressed his belief the timing of the proposed would have been better suited for 2022. He noted the importance of process and as the issue has not been vetted through the police department, City staff, or member of City Council, it is not a good way to set public policy.

Mayor McClure noted public safety is City Council's top priority and this bill dilutes emphasis on priority issues. He expressed his belief passage of the bill would hurt the citizens and make it more difficult for police officers to do their job.

Council Bill 2021-304. General Ordinance failed with the following vote: Ayes: Hosmer. Nays: Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, Romine, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, and McClure. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

**Springfield City
Code, Section 2-92,
known as the
'Salary Ordinance'**

Sponsor: Lear. Council Bill 2021-305

A general ordinance amending the Springfield City Code, Section 2-92, known as the 'Salary Ordinance,' relating to salary grades for various job titles within the City service as contained in the Professional, Administrative and Technical Schedules by making a provision for one new job title; and amending the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget of certain City departments, including the Airport, Parks, and Public Works, to reallocate funds to transition 15 contract positions to 15 full-time equivalent positions and adjusting the authorized employee positions.

Council Bill 2021-305. General Ordinance 6700 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, and McClure. Nays: Romine. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

**Collective
Bargaining
Agreement; City
and the Southern
Missouri
Professional Fire
Fighters Local 152:
Juneteenth**

Sponsor: Ollis. Council Bill 2021-306

A special ordinance approving the First Addendum to the July 1, 2021, Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City and the Southern Missouri Professional Fire Fighters Local 152, the Exclusive Representative of a certain Bargaining Unit within the Springfield Fire Department, which adds Juneteenth as an additional recognized holiday; and authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, on behalf of the City, to execute and deliver the First Addendum to the Collective Bargaining Agreement to the Exclusive Representative.

Council Bill 2021-306. Special Ordinance 27612 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, Romine, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

**Collective
Bargaining
Agreement; City
and the Springfield
Police Officers'
Association:
Juneteenth**

Sponsor: Ollis. Council Bill 2021-308

A special ordinance approving the First Amendment to the July 1, 2021, Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City and the Springfield Police Officers' Association, Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 22 ("SPOA"), the Exclusive Representative of a certain Bargaining Unit within the Springfield Police Department to, among other things, add Juneteenth as a recognized holiday; and authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, on behalf of the City, to execute and deliver the First Amendment to the Collective Bargaining Agreement to the Exclusive Representative.

Council Bill 2021-308. Special Ordinance 27613 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, Romine, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

**Collective
Bargaining
Agreement; City
and the
International
Brotherhood of
Electrical Workers,
Local No. 753:
("CTL")
Employee Group,
Juneteenth**

Sponsor: Hosmer. Council Bill 2021-309

A special ordinance approving the Third Amendment to the July 1, 2019, Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local No. 753 affiliated with the AFL-CIO, the Exclusive Representative of a certain Bargaining Unit within the Crafts, Trades, and Labor ("CTL") Employee Group, which adds Juneteenth as an additional recognized holiday; and authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, on behalf of the City, to execute and deliver the Third Amendment to the Collective Bargaining Agreement to the Exclusive Representative.

Council Bill 2021-309. Special Ordinance 27614 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, Romine, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

**Collective
Bargaining
Agreement; City
and the
International
Brotherhood of
Electrical Workers,
Local No. 753;
AFL-CIO
("IBEW"):
("PAT")
Employee Group;
Juneteenth**

Sponsor: Ollis. Council Bill 2021-310

A special ordinance approving the First Amendment to the July 1, 2021, Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local No. 753 affiliated with the AFL-CIO ("IBEW"), the Exclusive Representative of a certain Bargaining Unit consisting of limited employees within the Professional, Administrative, and Technical ("PAT") Employee Group, which adds Juneteenth as an additional recognized holiday; and authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, on behalf of the City, to execute and deliver the First Amendment to the Collective Bargaining Agreement to the Exclusive Representative.

Council Bill 2021-310. Special Ordinance 27615 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, Romine, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

**Springfield City
Code; Chapter 2,
Article III,
Division 1, Section
2-91; Merit System
Rules and
Regulation ("Merit
Rules"); amending
portions of the
Merit Rules**

Sponsor: Hosmer. Council Bill 2021-307

A general ordinance amending the Springfield City Code, Chapter 2, Article III, Division 1, Section 2-91, known as the Merit System Rules and Regulation ("Merit Rules"), by amending portions of the Merit Rules, specifically Merit Rules 2.2 (Coverage and Amendment of Rules); 4.1 (Constitution); 5.2 (Minimum Qualifications for Filing); 5.3 (Filing Applications); 5.4 (Disqualification of Applicants); 9.2 (Conditions Preliminary to Regular Status); 12.7 (Retirement); 13.5 (Grievance Procedure); 16.2 (Preparation and Content of Class Specifications); 17.5 (Total Remuneration); 18.1 (Entrance Salary Rates); 18.2 (Advancement within a Salary Range); 20.1 (Compensation for Absence on Holidays) to add Juneteenth as an additional recognized holiday; 21.1 (Vacation Leave); 21.2 (Sick Leave); and 24.2 (Allowances for the Use of Privately Owned Vehicles on City Business); and establishing an effective date for said Merit Rule changes (Merit Rules changes requiring Personnel Board approval have been approved by the Personnel Board).

Council Bill 2021-307. General Ordinance 6701 was approved with the following vote:
Ayes: Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, Romine, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

**Pictometry
International
Corporation to
purchase aerial
imagery in 2022,
2024, and 2026**

Sponsor: Hosmer. Council Bill 2021-311

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, on behalf of the City of Springfield, to enter into a contract with Pictometry International Corporation to purchase aerial imagery in 2022, 2024, and 2026; authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, on behalf of the City of Springfield, to enter into individual cooperative intergovernmental agreements with City Utilities of Springfield, Missouri, Christian and Greene counties in Missouri, the cities of Nixa, Ozark, and Republic, Missouri, and the Ozarks Transportation Organization to share the costs of such aerial imagery; and amending the budget for the Department of Public Works for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 in the amount of \$286,927.02 for the 2022 aerial imagery.

Council Bill 2021-311. Special Ordinance 27616 was approved with the following vote:
Ayes: Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, Romine, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

**Agreements with
the Ozark Region
Workforce
Development
Board (“Board”)
and the Council of
Local Elected
Officials
(“CLEO”)**

Sponsor: Ollis. Council Bill 2021-312

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to enter into agreements with the Ozark Region Workforce Development Board (“Board”) and the Council of Local Elected Officials (“CLEO”) to outline the responsibilities of the Board, CLEO, and City regarding the City’s designation as the fiscal agent, fund recipient, and operator of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act programs.

Council Bill 2021-312. Special Ordinance 27617 was approved with the following vote:
Ayes: Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, Romine, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

**Brody Corners Tax
Increment
Financing Plan**

Sponsor: Schilling. Council Bill 2021-317

A special ordinance approving the Brody Corners Tax Increment Financing Plan, establishing a redevelopment area, designating the redevelopment area as a blighted area, making other required findings for the redevelopment plan, designating a developer of record for the redevelopment plan, approving a redevelopment agreement with the developer, and directing staff to implement the redevelopment plan.

A request was received from the applicant to withdraw Council Bill 2021-317 from the agenda. Sponsor withdrew sponsorship.

**Redevelopment
Project for the
Brody Corners**

Sponsor: Schilling. Council Bill 2021-318

A special ordinance approving a Redevelopment Project for the Brody Corners Tax Increment Financing Plan and initiating tax increment financing therein.

A request was received from the applicant to withdraw Council Bill 2021-318 from the agenda. Sponsor withdrew sponsorship.

**Redevelopment
Project for the
IDEA Commons
Tax Increment
financing plan**

Sponsor: McClure. Council Bill 2020-098 Substitute 1

A special ordinance approving a Redevelopment Project for the IDEA Commons Tax Increment financing plan and initiating tax increment financing therein.

Councilwoman Romine asked if the development is near Missouri State University (MSU) and if there are other developers involved. Mayor McClure answered affirmatively to the location. Jason Gage, City Manager noted the property is divided in north and south. The portion to be developed is the north section to be developed by MSU.

Council Bill 2021-098 Substitute 1. Special Ordinance 27618 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, and McClure. Nays: Romine. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

RESOLUTIONS.

EMERGENCY BILLS.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

The following bills appeared on the agenda under Grants.

**Disaster Grants –
Public Assistance
Missouri COVID-
19 Pandemic
program**

Sponsor: Lear. Council Bill 2021-319

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to apply for and accept grant funds from the Disaster Grants – Public Assistance (Presidentially Declared Disasters) Missouri COVID-19 Pandemic program through the Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency, for qualifying expenditures through December 31, 2021, in the amount of \$4,490,000; and declaring that this bill qualifies for approval in one reading.

Katie Towns, Director of Public Health and Welfare provided a brief overview of the proposed. Ms. Towns noted the request to accept funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the amount of \$4,490,000. This reimbursement will help offset COVID-19 related expenses that occurred between January 2020 and November 2021.

Council Bill 2021-319. Special Ordinance 27619 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, and McClure. Nays: Romine. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

**Missouri
Department of
Health and Senior
Services; Adult
Vaccination
Supplemental
Grant Funds**

Sponsor: Hosmer. Council Bill 2021-320

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 \$296,400 for use by the Springfield-Greene County Health Department; amending the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget in the amount of \$296,400 for the purpose of appropriating the grant funds; and declaring that this bill qualifies for approval in one reading.

Katie Towns, Director of Public Health and Welfare provided a brief overview of the proposed. Ms. Towns noted she is seeking approval from City Council to accept additional COVID-19 grant funds from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services in the amount of \$296,400. She noted the funds will be used to purchase incentive gift cards for individuals receiving their first or second dose of the vaccine.

Council Bill 2021-320. Special Ordinance 27620 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, and McClure. Nays: Romine. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

AMENDED BILLS.

COUNCIL BILLS FOR PUBLIC HEARING.

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

**Agreement;
Missouri
Highways and
Transportation
Commission; new
sidewalks on
Glenstone Avenue**

Sponsor: Lear. Council Bill 2021-321

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager or his designee to enter into a Municipal and Cost Apportionment Agreement with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission to share costs associated with adding new sidewalks on Glenstone Avenue; and amending the budget of the Department of Public Works for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 in the amount of \$378,521 to appropriate federal Surface Transportation Block Grant-Urban funds for this project.

Dan Smith, Director of Public Works gave a brief overview of the proposed. Mr. Smith noted Missouri Department of Transportation (MODOT) is moving forward with their plan to improve pedestrian infrastructure on Glenstone Avenue between Valley Water Mill and James River Freeway. The infrastructure will be ADA compliant. MODOT approached the City for additional funding to upgrade and connect sidewalks. He further noted the total cost is approximately \$788,000, of which the City would be responsible for half the cost. 80% of the funding would be covered by federal funds and 20% covered by local funds. The construction is anticipated to begin in 2022.

Councilman McGull applauded Mr. Smith's efforts. He asked if the project is coordinated with MODOT to improve safety on Glenstone Avenue. Mr. Smith noted there is a separate safety project in the works.

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

**Agreement;
Missouri
Highways and
Transportation
Commission; new
sidewalks on
Kansas
Expressway**

Sponsor: Romine. Council Bill 2021-322

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager or his designee to enter into a Municipal and Cost Apportionment Agreement with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission to share costs associated with adding new sidewalks on Kansas Expressway; and amending the budget of the Department of Public Works for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 in the amount of \$718,571 to appropriate federal Surface Transportation Block Grant-Urban funds for this project.

Dan Smith, Director of Public Works gave a brief overview of the proposed. Mr. Smith noted Missouri Department of Transportation (MODOT) is moving forward with their plan to improve pedestrian infrastructure on Kansas Expressway. The infrastructure will be ADA compliant. MODOT approached the City for additional funding to upgrade and connect sidewalks. He noted the anticipated cost is \$1,500,000, of which the City's share would be half. 80% of the funding would be covered by federal funds and 20% covered by local funds. The construction is anticipated to begin in 2023.

Councilman Lear noted maintenance for infrastructure on some major thoroughfares, such as Glenstone Avenue, Kansas Expressway, West Bypass, and Sunshine Street is the responsibility of MODOT. Mr. Smith answered affirmatively.

Councilwoman Romine asked if future sidewalk projects not involving MODOT are anticipated. Mr. Smith noted a program is in effect to install sidewalks on city streets. Ms. Romine thanked Mr. Smith for his work.

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

**City of
Springfield's Flag**

Sponsor: Ollis, Simpson, Hardinger, Lear, Hosmer. Council Bill 2021-323

A special ordinance approving a new design for the City of Springfield's flag.

Cora Scott, Director of Public Information and Civic Engagement gave a brief overview of the proposed. Ms. Scott noted the proposed requests approval of a new design for the City of Springfield flag. Ms. Scott reviewed the history of the current flag and creation of the proposed flag. She further noted response to past surveys conducted. The City will continue to receive input regarding the flag. Citizens can give feedback between December 13, 2021 and 5:00 p.m. January 7, 2021 by calling 417-864-1888, completing an online survey, or completing a paper form available through

the Springfield – Greene County libraries and various community locations.

Councilwoman Romine asked if citizens who have previously completed a survey will need to complete the current survey. Ms. Scott noted this is a new public engagement and encouraged citizens to voice their opinion.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson moved to amend Council Bill 2021-323 by deleting Exhibit A and substituting a new Exhibit A. Councilman Lear seconded the motion.

The motion was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, McGull, Romine, Schilling, Simpson, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

An opportunity was given for citizens to express their views.

Ben Thomas spoke in support of the proposed. Mr. Thomas noted his support for the proposed flag is for three reasons, branding, civic pride, and unity.

Larry Askren did not appear.

Neil Frost spoke in opposition of the proposed. Mr. Frost noted he agrees a new and bold flag design is desirable however, he disagrees with the process by which the proposed flag has been considered. He expressed his belief public participation is needed, and the new design should be a vote of the public.

Christopher Upton spoke in support of the proposed. Mr. Upton expressed his love for Springfield and the symbolism of the proposed flag.

Michael Stelzer spoke in support of the proposed. Mr. Stelzer noted Springfield is a brand, and a flag is a part of the brand. He further noted a diverse group was chosen to curate the design submissions for the proposed flag. Mr. Stelzer noted the calming effect of the blue color chosen.

Lisa Meeks spoke in opposition of the proposed. Ms. Meeks questioned why the flag needs to be changed. She noted an online survey showing support for the current flag. Ms. Meeks expressed her belief the current flag should not be removed.

John McQueary spoke in support of the proposed. Mr. McQueary provided a handout for the proposed flag. He noted the importance of a flag that inspires community engagement. He expressed his belief the proposed flag is a way for citizens to show pride in their community.

Kelly Knauer spoke in support of the proposed. Mr. Knauer noted he has worked in the downtown area for 25 years and has watched use of the proposed flag increase. He expressed his belief the proposed flag brings optimism to the area. Mr. Knauer further expressed the proposed flag to be the most powerful, voluntary display of civic engagement he has witnessed in Springfield.

Jeff Houghton spoke in support of the proposed. Mr. Houghton expressed his belief it would be great to have a symbol to rally around, create pride, and bring the community together.

Rachel Anderson spoke in support of the proposed. Ms. Anderson expressed her thanks to the mayor and City Council for their work. She expressed her belief Springfield has momentum and cited the proposed flag as an example.

Craig Edwards did not appear.

Joel Thomas spoke in support of the proposed. Mr. Thomas noted he is part of the Springfield Identity Group and expressed he is proud of what they have accomplished in the last five years regarding the proposed flag.

Kevin Callahan did not appear.

Anita Cotter, City Clerk noted written comments were received.

Brandon Goodwin provided written comments to City Council. Mr. Goodwin expressed his support for the proposed flag. He further expressed his belief a symbol of pride can pull the City into unity.

Michael Kromrey provided written comments in support of the proposed flag. He expressed his approval of the proposed flag.

Samantha Stuart provided written comments in opposition to the proposed flag. Ms. Stuart noted her basic objection is to the lack of values associated with the proposed flag.

Kristen Carter provided written comments in support of the proposed flag. Ms. Carter expressed her belief the proposed flag is symbolic of the good of the Ozarks and it elicits community pride.

With no further appearances, this portion of the public hearing was declared closed. The public hearing will be continued to the January 10, 2022 meeting.

Mayor McClure expressed his thanks to all the speakers and encouraged citizens to speak at the January 10, 2022 meeting.

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

Appeared

Tim Havens addressed City Council. Mr. Havens shared a poem by Joplin native Langston Hughes. He noted in 2020, City Council promised to expand the Police Civilian Review Board from 5 to 7 members. Mr. Havens expressed his belief action is necessary to create a more diverse and equitable city.

NEW BUSINESS.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

MISCELLANEOUS.

CONSENT AGENDA – FIRST READING BILLS.

CONSENT AGENDA – ONE READING BILLS.

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

**Agreement for
Encroachment
License with
Springfield Little
Theater: Heat Mat**

Sponsor: Schilling. Council Bill 2021-313

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to enter into an Agreement for Encroachment License with Springfield Little Theater, for the purpose of allowing an encroachment onto City rights-of-way for the placement of a sidewalk heat mat in front of the property located at 311 East Walnut Street, under the same terms and conditions as encroachments are permitted on City rights-of-way under Chapter 98, Article VII of the Springfield City Code.

Council Bill 2021-288. Special Ordinance 27606 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, Romine, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

**Community
Foundation of the
Ozarks to help
fund the 2022
Kindergarten
Readiness Study**

Sponsor: McClure. Council Bill 2021-314

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to accept grant funds in the amount of \$1,500 from the Community Foundation of the Ozarks to help fund the 2022 Kindergarten Readiness Study conducted by the Mayor's Commission for Children in collaboration with Missouri State University.

Council Bill 2021-288. Special Ordinance 27606 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, Romine, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

**2022 Kindergarten
Readiness Study:
Grant Funds**

Sponsor: McClure. Council Bill 2021-315

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to accept grant funds in the amount of \$5,000 from the Musgrave Foundation and administered by the Community Foundation of the Ozarks to help fund the 2022 Kindergarten Readiness Study conducted by the Mayor's Commission for Children in collaboration with Missouri State University.

Council Bill 2021-288. Special Ordinance 27606 was approved with the following vote:
Ayes: Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, Romine, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

- Confirmed** Confirm the following appointments to the Board of Public Utilities: Steven Edwards and Matthew Stublefield with terms to expire December 1, 2024.
- Confirmed** Confirm the following reappointments to the Board of Public Utilities: Scott Bratcher, Kristin Carter, and Lynn Rowe with terms to expire December 1, 2024.
- Confirmed** Confirm the following appointment to the Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau: Callie Linville with term to expire January 1, 2025.
- Confirmed** Confirm the following reappointments to the Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau: Missy Handyside and Tim Rosenbury with terms to expire January 1, 2025.
- Confirmed** Confirm the following appointment to the Board of Adjustment: Jin Chang as an alternate with term to expire January 1, 2026.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA.

- Motion to Adjourn** Councilman McGull moved to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Simpson seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote. Ayes: Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, Romine, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, and McClure. Nays: Hosmer. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

Prepared by
Michelle Brown



Anita J. Cotter, CMC/MRCC
City Clerk