



City of Springfield

Minutes

City Council

Ken McClure, Mayor

Zone Councilmembers

Monica Horton, Zone 1
Abe McGull, Zone 2
Brandon Jenson, Zone 3
Matthew Simpson, Zone 4

General Councilmembers

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

January 22, 2024

6:30 PM

**Regional Police-Fire
Training Center
2620 West Battlefield Road
Room 101, 102, and 103**

1. ROLL CALL.

Present: Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, Councilmember McGull, Mayor Pro Tem Simpson, Councilmember Hosmer, Councilmember Hardinger, and Mayor McClure. Absent: None.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

2.1. Approval of Minutes. January 8, 2024, City Council Meeting.

Approval of Minutes. January 8, 2024, City Council Meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Simpson moved to approve the January 8, 2024, City Council Meeting minutes. Councilmember McGull seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, Councilmember McGull, Mayor Pro Tem Simpson, Councilmember Hosmer, Councilmember Hardinger, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, and Mayor McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. 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 Horton, Councilmember McGull, Mayor Pro Tem Simpson, Councilmember Hosmer, Councilmember Hardinger, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, and Mayor McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

4. CEREMONIAL MATTERS.

4.1. Council Bill 2024-014 (Mayor McClure)

A resolution recognizing the dedicated public service of Bob Belote, Director of Parks and Recreation, upon the occasion of his retirement.

Councilmember Carroll read the resolution in its entirety.

Jason Gage, City Manager, expressed his appreciation for Mr. Belote. He noted Mr. Belote has maintained his energy and heart for the parks throughout his time with the City.

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

Mayor McClure noted Mr. Belote has led with professionalism and thoroughness to promote the Parks Department. He expressed his appreciation for Mr. Belote.

Council Bill 2024-014 (Mayor McClure). Resolution 10739 was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, Councilmember McGull, Mayor Pro Tem Simpson, Councilmember Hosmer, Councilmember Hardinger, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, and Mayor McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

Mr. Belote thanked everyone for their kind comments. He noted he has had a thirty-five year career in the Parks Department. Mr. Belote thanked City Council for their support for various revitalization projects. He thanked the City Manager's Office and the Finance Department for their support and thanked the Parks Department staff for their hard work. Mr. Belote noted he has enjoyed the public service aspects of his role.

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

Jason Gage, City Manager, thanked the staff in Public Works for their service in maintaining the roadways and bridges over the past few weeks. The Public Works team provides a vital service which allows the City to continue with essential functions.

Mr. Gage noted the City of Springfield and the Springfield-Greene County Park Board named Jim Fisher as Interim Director of Parks and Recreation, following the retirement of Parks Director Bob Belote, effective Sunday, January 28. Mr. Fisher will serve as Interim Director until a permanent Director of Parks and Recreation is named.

Mr. Gage noted the public is invited to learn how updates to the City's development codes will help implement the vision of Springfield's Comprehensive Plan, Forward SGF, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 25, 2024, at the Springfield Art Museum. He added Planning and Development staff and Multistudio consultants would be available at various stations during the open house to accept public input and answer questions.

Mr. Gage noted due to necessary facility renovations, the Springfield-Greene County Health Department announced the upcoming temporary closure of the Harold K. Bengsch Building at 227 East Chestnut Expressway. He added service and business operations typically offered at the Bengsch Building will be relocated to the 4th floor of Cox Medical Tower located at 1443 North Robberson Avenue. The Bengsch Building will close to the public on February 26, 2024. Bengsch Building services will pause for one week while operations are relocated. Services will resume at Cox Medical Tower on March 4, 2024, and be provided at that location until renovations are complete.

6. SECOND READING AND FINAL PASSAGE.

Citizens Have Spoken. May Be Voted On.

6.1. Council Bill 2024-007 (Carroll)

A general ordinance amending Chapter 36 of the Springfield City Code, known as the 'Land Development Code,' Article III, 'Zoning Regulations,' Division 7, Sections 36-363, Conditional use permits and 36-368, Publication and Posting of Notices for the purpose of allowing City Council to add, modify, or remove conditions to a Conditional Use Permit. (Staff recommends approval; the Planning and Zoning Commission recommends denial.)

Mayor McClure moved to postpone Council Bill 2024-007 until the February 26, 2024, City Council Meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Simpson seconded the motion, and it was discussed.

Mayor McClure noted current language does not allow City Council to impose conditions upon a conditional use permit. He added City Council does have the ability to remand a council bill back to the Planning and Zoning Commission for further review and recommendations. Mayor McClure noted the proposal as written would allow City Council to add, modify, or remove conditions to a conditional use permit, which is consistent with other zoning recommendations. He noted having opportunity to meet with leadership of the Planning and Zoning Commission and based upon discussions, it was agreed City Council is the ultimate decision maker. Mayor McClure asked that staff work on text amendments which would allow for a process for conditional use permits which have changes made by City Council to be sent to the Planning and Zoning Commission for their review and input, then return to City Council for the final decision if the motion were to pass.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson expressed his agreement with this approach. He added the change to conditional use permits would bring consistency with how zoning cases are handled. Mayor Pro Tem Simpson asked that non-substantive corrections be allowed to be changed with City Council approval only.

The motion to postpone Council Bill 2024-007 until the February 26, 2024, City Council meeting was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, Councilmember McGull, Mayor Pro Tem Simpson, Councilmember Hosmer, Councilmember Hardinger, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, and Mayor McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

6.2. Council Bill 2024-008 (Simpson, Hardinger, Horton, and Jenson)

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

Council Bill 2024-008 (Simpson, Hardinger, Horton, and Jenson). Ordinance 6832 was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, Councilmember McGull, Mayor Pro Tem Simpson, Councilmember Hosmer, Councilmember Hardinger, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, and Mayor McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

6.3. Council Bill 2024-009 (Simpson)

A special ordinance approving the selection of The Salvation Army and Women's Medical Respite as recipients of the City's Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds allotted for non-congregate shelters; and authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to enter into agreements to carry out the programs.

Mayor McClure recused himself from Council Bill 2024-009 and left the dais.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson noted there were three applicants that requested funding through the Request for Proposal (RFP) process and two were recommended to receive funding. He added the Council of Churches Safe to Sleep program was not recommended to receive funding. Mayor Pro Tem Simpson noted the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Review Committee reviewed the Safe to Sleep request and recommended allocation from remaining ARPA funds to be awarded to Safe to Sleep for their required \$1.9 million matching funds. He added the bill for this proposal is forthcoming.

Council Bill 2024-009 (Simpson). Ordinance 27959 was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, Councilmember McGull, Mayor Pro Tem Simpson, Councilmember Hosmer, Councilmember Hardinger, Councilmember Carroll, and Councilmember Lee. Nays: None. Absent: Mayor McClure. Abstain: None.

Mayor McClure returned to the dais.

6.4. Council Bill 2024-010 (Carroll)

A special ordinance approving the Eighth Amendment to the July 1, 2021, Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City and the Springfield Police Officers Association, Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 22, representing changes requested by the Springfield Police Officers Association, Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 22, regarding seniority and reinstatements; and authorizing the City Manager, or designee, on behalf of the City, to execute and deliver the Eighth Amendment to the Collective Bargaining Agreement to the Springfield Police Officers Association, Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 22.

Council Bill 2024-010 (Carroll). Ordinance 27960 was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, Councilmember McGull, Mayor Pro Tem Simpson, Councilmember Hosmer, Councilmember Hardinger, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, and Mayor McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

7. RESOLUTIONS.

Citizens May Speak. May Be Voted On.

7.1. Council Bill 2024-015 (Horton)

A resolution granting a Short-Term Rental Type 2 permit for the property generally located at 415 E. Division, for the purpose of allowing the establishment of a Short-Term Rental Type 2 pursuant to Section 36-473 of the Land Development Code.

Bob Hosmer, Planning Manager, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Mr. Hosmer noted the property is located at 415 East Division Street. He added the neighbors were notified and neighborhood meetings were held. Mr. Hosmer further noted the applicant obtained 50% of the signatures needed. The requirement is 55%. Mr. Hosmer added the property is on a short blockface.

Councilmember Hosmer asked for confirmation the property owner did not obtain the required signatures and they did not meet the blockface density requirements. Mr. Hosmer responded affirmatively. Councilmember Hosmer asked if there had previously been an appeal where the applicant did not meet the blockface requirement. Mr. Hosmer responded he believed so. Councilmember Hosmer asked the number of short-term rentals in the City. Mr. Hosmer responded there are 63 type 1, 196 type 2, and with the type 3 short-term rentals there are a total of 299. Councilmember Hosmer asked how many short-term rentals are operating illegally. Mr. Hosmer responded he did not have that number. Councilmember Hosmer asked what was being done to enforce this. Mr. Gage responded the contract to set up the necessary software had been procured.

Councilmember McGull asked if there is now a tax revenue component to short-term rentals. Mr. Gage responded the City is now able to charge short-term rentals under the hotel/motel tax. Councilmember McGull agreed those operating illegally should be reviewed expeditiously.

Councilmember Horton asked why the blockface minimum is important. Mr. Hosmer responded the blockface minimum is in place to keep from overpopulating a neighborhood with short-term rentals.

Councilmember Carroll noted her procedure for viewing a short-term rental is to use Google Earth to determine the amount of work put into the property. Ms. Carroll noted the proposed property is desirable in appearance and expressed her belief this property would bring visitors to the area.

An opportunity was given for citizens to express their views.

Alexa Orth addressed City Council in support of the proposed. Ms. Orth, the applicant, thanked City Council for their consideration. She noted she and her husband have put much work and time into the property. Ms. Orth further noted they did obtain the other necessary signature after the ten-day deadline for submission. She added the property is in the Midtown area, and the property has been well reviewed.

With no further appearances, the public hearing was declared closed.

Mayor McClure expressed his support for the resolution. He noted short-term rentals are part of the culture but did agree it would be necessary to enforce the law for those operating illegally. Mayor McClure commended the Orths for their work on the property.

Council Bill 2024-015 (Horton). Resolution 10740 was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, Councilmember McGull, Mayor Pro Tem Simpson, Councilmember Hardinger, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, and Mayor McClure. Nays: Councilmember Hosmer. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

7.2. Council Bill 2024-016 (Hardinger)

A resolution approving the revised investment policy statement for the Police Officers' and Fire Fighters' Retirement Fund.

Tony Kelley, Administrative Director, Springfield Police Officers' and Fire Fighters' Retirement System Board of Trustees, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Mr. Kelley noted the proposed would provide parameters to change the asset allocation and investment strategy to improve the retirement plan.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson, City Council liaison to the Pension Board, thanked Mr. Kelley for an excellent job on the plan. He noted the Pension Board did a thorough job finding a firm to complete an excellent analysis with guidance.

Council Bill 2024-016 (Hardinger). Resolution 10741 was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, Councilmember McGull, Mayor Pro Tem Simpson, Councilmember Hosmer, Councilmember Hardinger, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, and Mayor McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

8. EMERGENCY BILLS.

9. PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

10. GRANTS.

11. AMENDED BILLS.

12. COUNCIL BILLS FOR PUBLIC HEARING.

Citizens May Speak. Not Anticipated To Be Voted On.

12.1. Council Bill 2024-017 (Horton)

A general ordinance amending the Springfield Land Development Code, Section 36-306, 'Official zoning map and rules for interpretation,' by rezoning approximately 0.11 acres of property generally located at 1530 North Broadway Avenue from HC, Highway Commercial to R-TH, Residential Townhouse; and adopting an updated Official Zoning Map. (By: KDR Real Estate LLC; 1530 North Broadway Avenue; Z-32-2023).

Michael Sparlin, Senior City Planner, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Mr. Sparlin noted the proposed would allow for rezoning of .11 acres of property at 1530 North Broadway Avenue. He added the intent of the property is for residential purposes. Mr. Sparlin further noted the application is consistent with the Center City neighborhood.

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

12.2. Council Bill 2024-018 (Jenson)

A general ordinance amending the Springfield Land Development Code, Section 36-306, 'Official zoning map and rules for interpretation,' by rezoning approximately 1.26 acres of property generally located at 221, 225, and 227 East Sunshine Street from O-1, Office District to GR, General Retail with Conditional Overlay District No. 245, and adopting an updated Official Zoning Map. (By: Sanders Prop LLC; 221, 225, and 227 East Sunshine Street; Z-33-2023 w/Conditional Overlay District No. 245).

Michael Sparlin, Senior City Planner, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Mr. Sparlin noted the proposed would allow for rezoning of approximately 1.26 acres of property located at 221, 225, and 227 East Sunshine to General Retail with Conditional Overlay District No. 245. Mr. Sparlin further noted the property is identified in the Comprehensive Plan as a city-corridor placetype. The conditional overlay would require landscaping at the time of the change.

Councilmember Lee asked if there would be any changes to the existing driveways. Mr. Sparlin responded that was his understanding. Councilmember Lee asked what would trigger taking the driveway from the development. Mr. Sparlin responded he would follow up on this question.

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

13. FIRST READING BILLS.

Citizens May Speak. Not Anticipated To Be Voted On.

13.1. Council Bill 2024-019 (Simpson, Horton)

A general ordinance amending the Springfield City Code, Chapter 78, Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions, Article I, In General, by adding a new Section 78-10, Monetary Prizes.

Chris Hoeman, Chief Litigator, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Mr. Hoeman noted the proposed was created as a result of feedback received by the sponsors. He noted the issue concerns entertainment devices which offer monetary prizes. Mr. Hoeman further noted the proposed would not prohibit or regulate a specific format of play; it would regulate the format of prizes. Any entertainment devices that pay out in a monetary format or with prizes that could easily be converted to a monetary format would be prohibited. He added penalty provisions include monetary fines that increase for re-offenses and include mandatory jail sentences.

Councilmember Horton asked what is within State statute that allows the machines to operate. Mr. Hoeman responded the proposed focuses on monetary prizes to avoid any overlap with State gambling law. He added any format of game play would be allowed, but monetary prizes would not be allowed.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson asked if the penalties apply per machine. Mr. Hoeman responded that each machine in violation would constitute a separate offense. He added if sentenced for multiple violations, each sentence would run consecutive to all other sentences.

Councilmember Jenson asked if there is a link between the machines and increases in crime. Mr. Hoeman responded this is an issue being addressed with the proposed. Councilmember Jenson asked if the proposed would affect businesses that offer video games without monetary prizes. Mr. Hoeman responded the proposed addresses monetary prizes.

Councilmember Hosmer asked who would enforce the proposed if passed. Mr. Hoeman responded the Police Department would be the enforcing body. Councilmember Hosmer asked if the penalties are typical for crimes in the City. Mr. Hoeman responded they are not typical. The penalties are severe to curb the offenses. Councilmember Hosmer noted this is not the severity applied to crimes such as stealing, and the penalties should be reasonable.

Councilmember Hardinger noted her understanding is that the "mini casinos" around town are the types of establishments that have been detrimental to economic vitality in the City. She asked if the proposed would keep establishments with legitimate gaming opportunities from operating. Mr. Hoeman responded the proposed would prohibit gaming with monetary prizes in the City.

Councilmember McGull asked if the legislation is tailored to address monetary value. Mr. Hoeman responded affirmatively.

An opportunity was given for citizens to express their views.

David Manning addressed City Council in support of the proposed. Mr. Manning noted he works in addiction and mental health services. Mr. Manning expressed his belief game rooms attract those who are addicted. He noted the elimination of game rooms is often part of a participant's relapse prevention plan. Mr. Manning noted the correlation between when individuals receive Social Security Disability checks and their visits to the game rooms. He expressed his belief game rooms detract from the fabric of society.

Zachary Rogers addressed City Council in support of the proposed. Mr. Rogers, a representative of Freedom City Church, expressed his belief there is an obsession with gaming machines. He added his belief the addiction to gaming machines makes it harder to combat other addictions.

Dan Shaul, Executive State Director for the Missouri Grocers Association, addressed City Council. Mr. Shaul noted they would like to be part of the solution. He expressed his belief City Council should consider all entities, including veterans' organizations and convenience store owners, when making a decision. Mr. Shaul questioned what would be next if the games were banned today.

Joe Cooper addressed City Council in support of the proposed. Mr. Cooper is a barber and real estate agent who works in the Plaza Shopping Center. He noted the illegal activity that has occurred in proximity to the gaming centers. Mr. Cooper expressed his belief the centers are creating problems that are destroying the City and attracting illegal activity.

Binh Mai addressed City Council in support of the proposed. Mr. Mai noted he and his family have a business in the Plaza Shopping Center. He expressed his belief there has been a decline in the area since the gaming establishments have moved in. Mr. Mai expressed his belief the machines are gambling even though they may not fit the legal definition. He noted there has been an increase in loitering in the area, and his customers have been harassed.

Councilmember Lee asked how the gaming machines work. Mr. Mai responded the machines are not considered gambling because they are predetermined winnings and individuals could play until a winning outcome is revealed. Councilmember Lee asked what kind of payouts the machines give. Mr. Mai noted his research showed the house always wins.

Caleb Freeland did not appear to address City Council.

Michael Goforth, Commander of American Legion Post 639, addressed City Council in opposition to the proposed. Mr. Goforth noted they have gaming machines and have had no issues with behavior due to the games. He added they are not the post's primary activity, and the revenue from the games is used to operate their business and provide more events for the local community. Mr. Goforth expressed his belief that banning the games would cause the post to review what is provided to the community.

Councilmember Jenson asked what clientele he sees using the machines. Mr. Goforth responded they are mainly members and guests of members of the post. He noted the post does charitable fundraisers and contributes to the community. Councilmember Jenson asked if the organization would be willing to have communication with City Council if the ban occurred. Mr. Goforth responded affirmatively.

Councilmember McGull asked if the post operates 24 hours per day. Mr. Goforth responded they do not. Councilmember McGull asked if the post is limited to members and guests. Mr. Goforth responded affirmatively. Councilmember McGull asked what other activities the post has. Mr. Goforth responded a commercial kitchen and club room.

Councilmember Carroll asked if removal of the machines would cause the post to close. Mr. Goforth responded it would not, but the revenue does help the post do community outreach.

Councilmember Hosmer asked how many machines the post has, how much it costs to play, and what the machines pay out. Mr. Goforth responded there are 11 Torch gaming machines plus 6 lottery machines. He added the player could bet \$1 to \$2, and he was unsure of the payout amounts. Councilmember Hosmer asked when the post started using the machines and if they rent them or pay a percentage to the machine owner. Mr. Goforth responded the post started using the machines in 2021, and the proceeds are split 50/50 with Torch. Councilmember Hosmer asked what an average machine generates in a month. Mr. Goforth responded approximately \$4,000 in total. He added a Torch representative comes in weekly to monitor the machines. Councilmember Hosmer asked if there is any agency that monitors the machines for fair payouts. Mr. Goforth responded he was not sure.

Councilmember McGull asked if the City charges a licensing fee for gaming machines. David Holtmann, Director of Finance, responded there is not a licensing fee for the machines. He added the licensing is for the business only, and the City receives no revenue from the machines. Councilmember McGull asked if the machines could have a fee applied. Mr. Holtmann responded there is currently no ordinance requiring a fee for the machines.

Nic Mertz addressed City Council in support of the proposed. Mr. Mertz, a business owner in the City, expressed his belief the gaming centers have a negative impact on the City. He further expressed his belief the owners of these types of businesses are not local and do not wish to contribute to the City. Mr. Mertz thanked the Mayor, the Greene County Sheriff's Department, and the Springfield Police Department for their interest in helping his neighborhood with these issues.

Susan Snook addressed City Council in support of the proposed. Ms. Snook, the campus director at Academy of Hair Design, expressed her belief the Plaza Shopping Center has drastically changed since the gaming centers have moved in. She expressed her belief safety has been compromised and noted the business has had to hire security. Ms. Snook noted her experiences with crime and loitering. Ms. Snook noted there is more crime in the area.

Daljit Kaur addressed City Council in opposition to the proposed. Ms. Kaur, a representative of Discount Express, noted Discount Express is a 24-hour convenience store and gas station. Ms. Kaur further noted they have gaming machines in the store and have never had any issues due to the machines. She noted they opened in 2018.

James Switzer did not appear to address City Council.

Aimee Jackson addressed City Council in support of the proposed. Ms. Jackson expressed her belief unregulated gambling has no place in the City. She noted the Gaming Commission and Highway Patrol list the use of the machines as gambling activity. Ms. Jackson noted there are 25 game rooms in the City with approximately 456 slot/skilled games, 95 fish tables, and multiple internet terminals, and some businesses offer players the opportunity to play from home. She added many of the games do not have prize viewers on the machines. Ms. Jackson expressed her belief the establishments are a public nuisance and provide gambling activity.

Councilmember McGull thanked Ms. Jackson for her research. He asked if any of the establishments Ms. Jackson had visited provided security. Ms. Jackson responded they did not. She added there are some that allow smoking in the building. Ms. Jackson noted the gaming centers do not allow individuals to bring in large bags or cell phones.

Councilmember Jenson noted his understanding is that it is the responsibility of the County to pursue charges against the centers. Mr. Hoeman responded affirmatively.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson thanked Ms. Jackson for her research. He asked if the machines were offering monetary prizes. Ms. Jackson responded affirmatively. She added some prizes go up to \$2,000. Ms. Jackson noted there are machines that will only allow individuals to cash out at \$500.

Councilmember Carroll asked Ms. Jackson what inspired her to do this research. Ms. Jackson responded she played the machines in the beginning and after time realized there was an issue. She added the Torch games can have the settings changed to determine the outcome. Ms. Jackson expressed her belief the machines are addictive.

Jeremy Dean addressed City Council in support of the proposed. Mr. Dean, a representative of the Drew Lewis Foundation, expressed his belief video lottery terminals can be addictive and pose a significant risk to vulnerable individuals. He added the financial implications are noteworthy as use of the machines can lead to financial distress. Mr. Dean noted the accessibility of the machines increases the likelihood that individuals, including youth, will be exposed to gambling. Mr. Dean further noted the Drew Lewis Foundation supports limiting access to these predatory practices.

Adam Naegler addressed City Council in opposition to the proposed. Mr. Naegler, a representative of Fast N Friendly convenience stores, noted the stores have been in the area since 1985. He further noted they have not seen an increase in crime in their stores due to gaming machines. Mr. Naegler expressed his belief the problems are associated with the gaming centers and the focus should be placed on those establishments. Mr. Naegler noted the stores want to be a part of the solution.

Councilmember Jenson thanked Mr. Naegler for speaking. He noted an increase in criminal activity at the Chestnut and Main store. Mr. Naegler noted the location is near the jail, and they also have a diverse population that play the machines.

Mona Pieron, a representative of the Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association, addressed City Council in support of the proposed. Ms. Pieron read a letter from the association. She noted the association is in full support of restricting video lottery terminals in the City. Ms. Pieron further noted the letter stated their opposition is specifically regarding unregulated video lottery terminals. The association letter expressed the belief the presence of machines would be a major contributor to crime and blight in the area. Ms. Pieron noted the association is interested in improving the area and asked for support within City Code to do so.

Councilmember Horton thanked Ms. Pieron for speaking. She asked Ms. Pieron to explain how this issue came to light in the neighborhood. Ms. Pieron responded a business owner who was opening a convenience store in the neighborhood was invited to the neighborhood association meeting. She noted the owner came to the meeting and agreed he would not install gaming machines. Ms. Pieron noted the owner placed the gaming machines in his business this week.

Councilmember Jenson asked if there are any gaming operations in proximity to the convenience store in the neighborhood. Ms. Pieron responded there was a gaming operation on the same corner.

Becky Volz addressed City Council in support of the proposed as Chair of the Neighborhood Advisory Council. Ms. Volz read comments from neighborhood leaders. Ms. Volz noted the Bissett Neighborhood Association is in support of banning or restricting video lottery terminals as the perception is that they prey on the most vulnerable.

Mayor Pro Tem Simspon thanked Ms. Volz for coming. He asked what associations provided letters in support of the proposed. Ms. Volz responded she had comments from the Bissett, Midtown, and Rountree neighborhoods.

With no further appearances, the public hearing was declared closed.

13.2. Council Bill 2024-020 (Lee)

A general ordinance amending the Springfield City Code, Section 2-91, known as the 'Merit System Rules and Regulations,' by amending Merit Rule 8.12 "Reinstatement," to expand reinstatement options.

Darla Morrison, Director of Human Resources, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Ms. Morrison noted the proposed would expand reinstatement options by amending Merit Rule 8.12. She added the rule currently only applies to former employees who voluntarily resigned or were laid off. Ms. Morrison further noted the proposed would allow expansion of the rule to include an additional recruitment option specifically for sworn police and fire personnel who retire via non-duty disability retirement. The option is designed to assist in recruitment and retention of eligible sworn police and fire employees as a strategy to alleviate the current candidate shortage. The Personnel Board unanimously approved the proposed.

Councilmember Hosmer asked how many Police Officers are currently under the old system. Ms. Morrison responded there are approximately 55. She added the rehire program resulted in 6 rehires with 4 upper-level ranks and 2 lower-level ranks. Councilmember Hosmer asked if the City could incentivize the rehire of officers. Ms. Morrison responded this would have to be reviewed as the rule is that an officer returns to the same pay and step as when they left. Councilmember Hosmer expressed his belief it would be beneficial to incentivize officers to return to the City as they have already been trained by the City, and they are experienced. He asked the City Manager to review this. Mr. Gage responded affirmatively.

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

14. PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES AND COMMUNICATIONS.

14.1. Daryl Baker wishes to address City Council. Did Not Appear.

15. NEW BUSINESS.

15.1. 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. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

17. MISCELLANEOUS.

18. CONSENT AGENDA – FIRST READING BILLS.

19. CONSENT AGENDA – ONE READING BILLS.

20. CONSENT AGENDA – SECOND READING BILLS. See Item #3.

20.1. Council Bill 2024-011 (Horton)

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or designee, on behalf of the City of Springfield, to enter into a Contract for Sale of Real Estate with Springfield QOZ Self-Storage LLC d/b/a Devon Self-Storage, for 0.43 acres of vacant land in the 300 block of West Chestnut Street; and authorizing the issuance of a quitclaim deed for the same. (Staff recommends approval.)

Council Bill 2024-011 (Horton). Ordinance 27961 was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, Councilmember McGull, Mayor Pro Tem Simpson, Councilmember Hosmer, Councilmember Hardinger, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, and Mayor McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

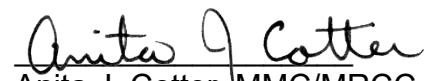
- 20.2. Confirm the following appointment to the Citizens' Advisory Committee for Community Development: Zipporah Burns with term to expire May 1, 2024. Confirmed.
- 20.3. Confirm the following appointment to the Citizens' Advisory Committee for Community Development: Jared Durden with term to expire May 1, 2026. Confirmed.
- 20.4. Confirm the following reappointments to the Landmarks Board: Adam Letterman and Bryan Lenox with terms to expire November 1, 2026. Confirmed.
- 20.5. Confirm the following appointment to the Personnel Board: Amanda Cooper with term to expire March 1, 2025. Confirmed.
- 20.6. Confirm the following reappointments to the Planning and Zoning Commission: Helen Gunther and Eric Pauly with terms to expire January 1, 2028. Confirmed.
- 20.7. Confirm the following reappointments to the Police Civilian Review Board: Dr. Allen Grymes and Lori Muetzel with terms to expire May 1, 2026. Confirmed.

21. END OF CONSENT AGENDA.

22. ADJOURN.

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

Prepared by: Michelle Brown


Anita J. Cotter, MMC/MRCC
City Clerk