



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

August 19, 2024

6:30 PM

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

1. ROLL CALL.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

2.1. Approval of Minutes. August 5, 2024, City Council Meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson moved to approve the minutes as presented. Councilmember Horton seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved as presented by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Hosmer, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, Councilmember McGull, Mayor Pro Tem Simpson, and Mayor McClure. Nays: None. Absent: Councilmember Hardinger. 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 Carroll, Councilmember Lee, and Mayor McClure. Nays: None. Absent: Councilmember Hardinger. Abstain: None.

4. CEREMONIAL MATTERS.

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

Jason Gage, City Manager, noted the City of Springfield's Office of Belonging and Intercultural Development, along with several community partners, hosted an engagement event last week to gather community input on accessibility efforts in the community. He added the collaborative effort gathered feedback and insights from those who stand to benefit from NaviLens technology, an innovative software that allows people who are blind, or have low vision, to independently navigate unknown places by translating visual signage into audio messages.

Mr. Gage thanked the Parks Department for offering cooling center options during the recent heat advisories. He noted all three of the Springfield-Greene County Park Board Family Centers, as well as Jordan Valley Ice Park, opened entrance lobbies as free public cooling centers. Mr. Gage added that all lobbies had seating, restroom access, and air conditioning. Mr. Gage further noted the public was also welcome to cool off in the water at the Ozarks Stream and Fountain at Jordan Valley Park located at 635 East Trafficway. Fountains run daily from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., with fountain shows every hour with free admission.

Mr. Gage noted the Birthplace of Route 66 Festival broke attendance records this year with approximately 74,700 people attending the two-and-a-half-day festival. The event had attendees from 39 of the States and 34 countries, including Malaysia, New Zealand, Argentina, Italy, Turkey, and South Africa. A highlight reel of the event was shown.

Mayor McClure commended the Public Information Office staff for their work on the event. He added 2026 would mark the centennial of Route 66.

Paul Williams, Police Chief, provided a quarterly update. Chief Williams noted crime was flat over the past six months. He added the three categories of Crimes Against Persons, Crimes Against Property, and Crimes Against Society would be presented for the first quarter. Chief Williams noted Crimes Against Persons showed a slight decrease of approximately 3 percent. He added crime had trended down since 2021. Chief Williams further noted murder was at 2 for the first six months of the year which was a significant drop. He added burglaries were down approximately 5 percent for the first six months. There was a focus on robberies for the last part of the previous year which educated individuals on how to keep themselves from becoming a victim. Robberies decreased almost 9 percent, and motor vehicle theft decreased by 16 percent. Chief Williams noted approximately 1,500 steering wheel locks were given to owners of Kia and Hyundai vehicles to help prevent theft.

Chief Williams noted there was a nearly 20 percent increase in Crimes Against Society. He further noted there was a 22 percent increase in drug arrests due to aggressive enforcement from the Narcotics Unit. There was also an increase in arrests for heroin, opioids, and methamphetamine.

Chief Williams further noted a dramatic decrease in overdose deaths due to enforcement and the availability of Narcan. Chief Williams noted an increase in gambling and assisting gambling from zero to 24. Chief Williams further noted in the first six months of the year, the number of municipal prisoners nearly doubled. A total of 48 beds were available for use, and that had not been exceeded. Chief Williams added 120 citations for use of video lottery terminals had been issued since passage of the ordinance.

Chief Williams noted gun violence continued to be the number one problem. He added there had been a dramatic decrease over the past five years.

Chief Williams provided an update on the Data-Driven Approach to Crime (DDACTS). Chief Williams noted the running total for calls for service was 93,000 from last July through this June. There were approximately 7,000 fewer calls for service. He further noted officers average 70 traffic stops per month, almost double from a year ago. Chief Williams further noted Operation Safe Ride, a coordination with Highway Patrol for the use of helicopters for enforcement activities, was conducted in July. He added efforts were focused on the downtown area resulting in 66 traffic stops, 65 tickets issued, and three arrests. Chief Williams noted they would continue to monitor the area.

Chief Williams provided an update on the Lights On Program. He noted the program addresses equipment violations such as headlights and taillights that were not functioning and began with 100 vouchers and four repair shops that accept the vouchers. Chief Williams further noted 35 of 100 vouchers had been distributed to date, and the program would continue until the vouchers were distributed in full.

Chief Williams provided an update to Councilmember McGull regarding the number of miles patrol officers drove on average. He noted the average per officer was 13,832 miles per year, or 76 miles per shift.

Chief Williams provided an update on the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) unit, drone program. He noted there were two officers dedicated to operating drones, with a goal of using them as first responders. He noted there were an average of 60 deployments, or calls for service, over the past three months. Each deployment lasted approximately 20 minutes. Chief Williams noted there were 175 deployments with 8 apprehensions.

Chief Williams provided a Mental Health Co-Responder update. He noted there were 214 referrals completed in the past six months. He added 166 resolved in 30 minutes or less, and 74 were referred to community resources.

Chief Williams noted there were currently 54 vacant positions. He added recruitment was up with double the number of applicants for the next academy class. Chief Williams further noted 24 individuals were offered positions for next academy class. Chief Williams noted there were eight Police Service Representative vacancies, with six applicants currently in the background check process. Chief Williams noted the department had utilized multifaceted recruiting efforts through television, radio, billboards, and Spanish speaking radio spots.

He added there were statewide television and radio campaigns, a national television radio campaign, and social media ads. Chief Williams further noted the \$5,000 incentive for new recruits and \$10,000 incentive for lateral recruits was beneficial.

Councilmember McGull thanked Chief Williams for the report and asked about the attrition rate. Chief Williams responded approximately 20 to 25 Police Officers were historically lost to retirement and resignation, with a loss of approximately 40 in the most recent years. He added the pattern had slowed with the reinstatement program. Chief Williams noted the attrition goal was 7.5 percent. The rate had been as high as 12.5 percent over the last couple of years and was currently around 10 percent. Councilmember McGull thanked Chief Williams for reporting on the mileage which provided citizens with an idea of how much officers were patrolling the streets. Chief Williams noted bike patrol was used on the Missouri State Campus and in the downtown area. Councilmember McGull encouraged the use of drone patrol. Chief Williams responded drones were used at the Ozark Empire Fair and downtown.

Councilmember Hosmer asked how many officers returned through the rehire program. Chief Williams responded he would get numbers for the rehire and reinstatement programs. He estimated approximately 12 officers had used the programs. Councilmember Hosmer asked if City Council could be given a comparison to benchmark cities for crimes and crimes per officer. Chief Williams responded affirmatively. Councilmember Hosmer asked if officers would pull someone over for a missing license plate. Chief Williams noted officers had discretion to pull individuals over for any violation. Councilmember Hosmer noted citizens had reported concern with reporting crimes for vehicles without license plates. Chief Williams responded he would provide the traffic statistic numbers at the next update. He added license plates were a statewide issue. Chief Williams encouraged citizens to always report crimes.

Councilmember Jenson thanked Chief Williams for the update on noise enforcement. He asked about clearance rates for crime and noted only approximately a third of crimes had been cleared. Chief Williams responded clearance numbers were fluid and always increase over time. He noted a comparison on the number of cases in process and those cleared would be provided. Councilmember Jenson asked for information to be provided on rates of recidivism.

Mayor McClure thanked Chief Williams for his report.

6. SECOND READING AND FINAL PASSAGE.

Citizens Have Spoken. May Be Voted On.

6.1. Council Bill 2024-158 (McGull)

A general ordinance amending the Springfield Land Development Code, Section 36-306, 'Official zoning map and rules for interpretation,' by rezoning approximately 5 acres of property generally located at 3110 East Cherry Street from GR, General Retail, with Conditional Overlay District 158, to GR, General Retail, with Conditional Overlay District No. 255; and adopting an updated Official Zoning Map. (By: B&T Commercial Properties LLC; 3110 East Cherry Street; Z-19-2024 w/ COD 255.)

Ordinance 6866. Council Bill 2024-158 (McGull) was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, Councilmember McGull, Mayor Pro Tem Simpson, Councilmember Hosmer, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, and Mayor McClure. Nays: None. Absent: Councilmember Hardinger. Abstain: None.

6.2. Council Bill 2024-159 (Simpson)

A general ordinance amending the Springfield Land Development Code, Section 36-306, 'Official zoning map and rules for interpretation,' by rezoning approximately 0.73 acres of property generally located at 2456 East Sunshine Street from Planned Development 136, to GR, General Retail District; establishing Conditional Overlay District No. 254; and adopting an updated Official Zoning Map. (By: Thomas Edward Gregorski; 2456 East Sunshine Street; Z-18-2024 w/ Conditional Overlay District No. 254.)

Ordinance 6867. Council Bill 2024-159 (Simpson) was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, Councilmember McGull, Mayor Pro Tem Simpson, Councilmember Hosmer, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, Mayor McClure. Nays: None. Absent: Councilmember Hardinger. Abstain: None.

6.3. Council Bill 2024-160 (Jenson)

A general ordinance amending the Springfield Land Development Code, Section 36-306, 'Official zoning map and rules for interpretation,' by rezoning approximately 5.4 acres of property generally located at 817 West El Camino Alto Drive from R-LD, Low-Density Multi-Family Residential District, with Conditional Overlay District 214, to O-1, Office District; establishing Conditional Overlay District No. 253; and adopting an updated Official Zoning Map. (By: Ridge HZ55, LLC; 817 West El Camino Alto Drive; Z-17-2024 with Conditional Overlay District No. 253.)

Jordan Paul, City Attorney, noted when a Councilmember recuses themselves, they normally leave the dais as best practice, not due to a requirement. He further noted the actual requirement was that the Councilmember not participate in the discussion. Mr. Paul noted the quorum for zoning ordinances required seven members be present. He added to comply with City Code, the three Councilmembers would recuse, not participate in the discussion, but remain in their seat so the quorum was preserved.

Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, and Mayor McClure recused themselves from Council Bill 2024-160 and remained at the dais.

Councilmember Hosmer asked if there would be a bufferyard between the residential property and the development. Bob Hosmer, Planning Manager, responded affirmatively. He added there would be a 100-foot setback and 400-foot setback for any maximum height limitations. Mr. Hosmer responded the bufferyard would be a 15-foot buffer with plantings on the side. Councilmember Hosmer noted his overarching issue with bufferyards was the lack of enforcement and maintenance. He asked if a bufferyard requirement for other developments had been enforced previously. Mr. Hosmer responded affirmatively.

FAILED. Council Bill 2024-160 (Jenson) failed by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, Councilmember McGull, and Mayor Pro Tem Simpson. Nays: Councilmember Hosmer. Absent: Councilmember Hardinger. Abstain: None. Recused and remained at dais: Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, and Mayor McClure.

6.4. Council Bill 2024-161 (Jenson)

A general ordinance amending the Official Map of the City of Springfield, Missouri, adopted pursuant to General Ordinance 1478, by changing the street name of the 1700-2000 block of South McCurry Street to South McCurry Avenue.

Ordinance 6868. Council Bill 2024-161 (Jenson) was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, Councilmember McGull, Mayor Pro Tem Simpson, Councilmember Hosmer, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, and Mayor McClure. Nays: None. Absent: Councilmember Hardinger. Abstain: None.

6.5. Council Bill 2024-165 (Horton, McGull)

A special ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget of the Department of Public Works in the amount of \$1,350,000 to appropriate 1/4-cent Capital Improvement Sales Tax fund balance reserves for sidewalk improvements and rehabilitation of existing sidewalks.

Ordinance 28038. Council Bill 2024-165 (Horton, McGull) was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, Councilmember McGull, Mayor Pro Tem Simpson, Councilmember Hosmer, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, and Mayor McClure. Nays: None. Absent: Councilmember Hardinger. Abstain: None.

6.6. Council Bill 2024-166 (Simpson)

A special ordinance authorizing the Director of Planning and Development to accept the dedication of public streets and easements to the City of Springfield, Missouri, as shown on the renewal of the Cluster Preliminary Subdivision Plat of Reed Avenue Cottages, generally located at 4423 South Reed Avenue, upon the applicant filing and recording a final plat that substantially conforms to the preliminary plat; and authorizing the City Clerk to sign the final plat upon compliance with all the terms of this Ordinance.

Councilmember Jenson noted he reviewed the Code to focus on cluster developments. He further noted the purpose of a cluster development was to be designed to encourage ingenuity and originality, and to preserve open space while leveraging densities that would not otherwise be allowed. Councilmember Jenson expressed his belief the proposed met the letter of the law, but not the intent. He expressed he would reluctantly vote in favor.

Ordinance 28039. Council Bill 2024-166 (Simpson) was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, Councilmember McGull, Mayor Pro Tem Simpson, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, and Mayor McClure. Nays: Councilmember Hosmer. Absent: Councilmember Hardinger. Abstain: None.

6.7. Council Bill 2024-167 (Hosmer)

A special ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget of the Springfield-Greene County Park Board by increasing revenues in the amount of \$175,000.00.

Ordinance 28040. Council Bill 2024-167 (Hosmer) was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, Councilmember McGull, Mayor Pro Tem Simpson, Councilmember Hosmer, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, and Mayor McClure. Nays: None. Absent: Councilmember Hardinger. Abstain: None.

7. RESOLUTIONS.

Citizens May Speak. May Be Voted On.

7.1. Council Bill 2024-169 (Hosmer)

A resolution adopting the goals of eliminating traffic-related deaths by 2040 and eliminating traffic-related serious injuries by 2050 as part of a Vision Zero approach to traffic safety.

Mandy Buettgen, Public Works Engineer, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Ms. Buettgen noted the Safe Streets SGF Collaborative was introduced to City Council by Public Works at a luncheon on July 16. She further noted the collaborative was put together by Public Works, the Police Department, the Fire Department, and the Office of Public Information and Civic Engagement. Ms. Buettgen added there was a disproportionate number of severe crashes in the community over the past few years. She noted the group's goal was to reduce and eventually eliminate fatal and severe injury crashes by joining the National Vision Zero Movement. Ms. Buettgen further noted the strategy prioritizes safety through a Safe System approach. The proposed would allow adoption of the Vision Zero goal and make the City eligible to apply for federal funding grants.

Councilmember McGull asked if "eliminate" should be used as opposed to "mitigate". Mr. Paul responded the resolution shows the City was being proactive and was unsure the standard for negligence would change based on this type of resolution. Councilmember McGull expressed his belief the proposed would provide a great opportunity to eliminate or mitigate accidents and fatalities.

Councilmember Hosmer noted three of the worst 13 cities in the nation for traffic safety were in Missouri, with the City being number 13 of 172. He asked for clarification on why this would be the case. Ms. Buettgen responded the population, and the I-44 corridor could be contributing factors.

An opportunity was given for citizens to express their views.

Carolyn McGhee addressed City Council. Ms. McGhee expressed her support for the proposed. She noted she had been cut off while crossing streets numerous times, and her boyfriend had been hit crossing. Ms. McGhee further noted drivers do not allow the full crosswalk for visually-impaired people.

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

Resolution 10778. Council Bill 2024-169B (Hosmer) was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, Councilmember McGull, Mayor Pro Tem Simpson, Councilmember Hosmer, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, and Mayor McClure. Nays: None. Absent: Councilmember Hardinger. Abstain: None.

*Clerk's note: Council Bill 2024-169 was inadvertently duplicated. As a result, Council Bill 2024-169, Resolution 10778 became Council Bill 2024-169B, Resolution 10778.

7.2. Council Bill 2024-170 (Hardinger)

A resolution authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to apply for a Safe Streets and Roads for All grant of up to \$3,000,000 from the United States Department of Transportation to fund studies for a transportation master plan.

Mandy Buettgen, Public Works Engineer, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Ms. Buettgen noted the proposed would allow the City, in cooperation with the Ozarks Transportation Organization, to apply for grant funds for a Transportation Master Plan. She further noted the plan would provide priorities and strategic plans for reliable and safe transportation for users of the roadway system. Ms. Buettgen added the plan was outlined in ForwardSGF, and the cost was not yet fully determined but anticipated to be less than \$3 million. The City would pay a 20 percent match of that.

Councilmember Jenson asked what modes of transportation would be covered. Ms. Buettgen responded transportation within the public right-of-way, specifically neighborhood speed studies due to congestion. She added it would include a pedestrian and bicycle safety action plan as well as training and education.

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

Resolution 10779. Council Bill 2024-170 (Hardinger) was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, Councilmember McGull, Mayor Pro Tem Simpson, Councilmember Hosmer, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, and Mayor McClure. Nays: None. Absent: Councilmember Hardinger. Abstain: None.

7.3. Council Bill 2024-171 (Lee)

A resolution authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to apply for a Charging and Fueling Infrastructure grant of up to \$600,000 from the United States Department of Transportation through an application submitted by the Ozarks Transportation Organization to install electric vehicle charging stations.

Eric Claussen, Assistant Director of Public Works, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Mr. Claussen noted the proposed would allow the City to apply for a charging and infrastructure grant to provide 22 new charging stations in the community. He added the first would be added at Campbell and Pacific Street, and the following two at Boonville and Olive Street, and at Boonville and Water Street. Mr. Claussen added the stations would be level 2 charging stations.

Councilmember McGull asked if there was a strategic plan regarding placement of charging stations. Mr. Claussen responded the proposed looked at charging stations from a regional perspective. He noted the City had conversations with City Utilities regarding charging stations throughout the community. Mr. Claussen added the proposed was specific to the area and strategic as to where it was required the stations be placed.

Councilmember Hosmer asked if the charging stations would be paid stations. Mr. Claussen responded the payment mechanism would need to be set up, and the stations would require payment.

Councilmember Lee applauded the department for their work in applying for federal dollars that enable the City to leverage funds.

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

Resolution 10780. Council Bill 2024-171 (Lee) was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, Councilmember McGull, Mayor Pro Tem Simpson, Councilmember Hosmer, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, and Mayor McClure. Nays: None. Absent: Councilmember Hardinger. Abstain: None.

- 8. EMERGENCY BILLS.**
- 9. PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.**
- 10. GRANTS.**
- 11. AMENDED BILLS.**
- 12. COUNCIL BILLS FOR PUBLIC HEARING.**
- 13. FIRST READING BILLS. Requiring One Reading.**

Citizens May Speak. May Be Voted On.

13.1. Council Bill 2024-172 (Carroll)

A special ordinance to levy and assess a special tax against the lots, blocks, and parcels of ground hereinafter described and to establish rates to pay for the cost of the construction of sanitary sewers in the City of Springfield, Missouri, in Sanitary Sewer District No. 182 of Section No. 16, in the general vicinity of West Bypass and Division Street; providing for inclusion of said district in the City Sewer Financial Assistance Program; authorizing the City Clerk to issue special tax bills and deliver the same to the Director of Finance to be registered in his office in accordance with this Ordinance; and declaring that this Ordinance qualifies for approval in one reading under City Charter Section 10.15.

Zach Martin, Principal Engineer, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Mr. Martin noted the proposed was the final of a series of City Council actions related to the sanitary sewer district located on the west side of West Bypass north of Division Street. He added the district included seven properties for which sewer service was now available. Mr. Martin added prior City Council action established the boundary and set the project up for construction, which was completed. He noted the proposed would be the final City Council action to assess the cost of the construction. The total cost of the assessment was \$294,721.07, and the breakdown for each of the properties was included in the proposed. Mr. Martin further noted there were several financial assistance programs the City had to offer to potentially lower the assessments.

Councilmember McGull asked if the proposed sewer line went down the middle of the street. Mr. Martin responded it was preferred the line be in the right-of-way. Councilmember McGull asked if the City had control over where the lines were placed. Mr. Martin noted it was preferred for the line to drain toward the street. Councilmember McGull asked the cost for a property owner to hook to the system. Mr. Martin responded the rate was approximately .46 cents per square foot with a lateral cost of approximately \$8,000 to \$16,000 depending on the length of the lateral.

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

Ordinance 28041. Council Bill 2024-172 (Carroll) was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, Councilmember McGull, Mayor Pro Tem Simpson, Councilmember Hosmer, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, and Mayor McClure. Nays: None. Absent: Councilmember Hardinger. Abstain: None.

14. FIRST READING BILLS. Requiring Two Readings. Citizens May Speak. Not Anticipated To Be Voted On.

14.1. Council Bill 2024-173 (Carroll)

A special ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget to appropriate \$461,000 from the Marijuana Sales Tax Fund; and reducing by five the authorized full-time equivalent positions of Police Officer.

David Holtmann, Director of Finance, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Mr. Holtmann noted the proposed would authorize additional funding for pay plan improvements negotiated for Police Officers for the current fiscal year. He added a total of five full-time positions equivalent (FTE) were being reduced to cover the ongoing cost for premium shift pay. Mr. Holtmann further noted an additional \$461,000 of funding from the marijuana sales tax fund was being utilized to cover additional pay plan improvements that were above the City's available funds for pay plan improvements.

Councilmember Hosmer asked if the reduction in officers would be a permanent reduction. Mr. Holtmann responded affirmatively. He noted the reduction would be permanent until the City provided funding. Mr. Holtmann added the \$461,000 from the marijuana tax would be full funding at current cost. Councilmember Hosmer asked the purpose of reducing the FTE. Mr. Holtmann responded salary expenses provided in the current budget would be reallocated to pay for premium shift overtime rate. He added the saving from the five eliminated positions plus the marijuana tax funds were twofold to pay premium shift overtime pay plus pay improvements that were negotiated on behalf of Police Officers. Councilmember Hosmer noted the part of the marijuana tax purpose was to enhance law enforcement. Mr. Holtmann responded the funds would be used for additional enhancements for Police Officers through pay improvements.

Councilmember Lee expressed his support for the proposed as it took money designated for Police Officers and provided it to them.

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

15. PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES AND COMMUNICATIONS.

15.1. James Wilson wishes to address City Council.

James Wilson addressed City Council. Mr. Wilson noted he lives downtown. He expressed his belief the noise, unsafe action, and illegal use of unregistered vehicles was an issue in that area. Mr. Wilson expressed his belief the motorcycle traffic could be dangerous and sometimes occurred until 3:30 a.m. Mr. Wilson noted many of the motorcycles had unreadable license plates. He proposed the prohibition of motorcycles from entering the square from one block before Boonville and College Street, extended by at least two blocks on St. Louis Street, and one block on Jefferson Avenue. Mr. Wilson noted these blocks have the greatest pedestrian traffic and concentration of vulnerable sidewalk cafés. He asked that the City involve neighborhoods in clarification and codification regarding disturbances.

Councilmember McGull thanked Mr. Wilson for his comments. He noted he had been talking to the Downtown Springfield Association regarding closing Park Central Square during certain hours.

Councilmember Jenson expressed his approval for greater physical design and enforcement efforts. He asked Mr. Wilson if he could share an update of all his requests. Mr. Wilson responded he was not prepared for a full update, but one issue included parking garages and the management of them.

Councilmember Lee asked if Mr. Wilson's proposal was to close the square to all traffic at night or just motorcycles. Mr. Wilson responded he would like it to be closed to motorcycles and expressed his belief the majority of the noise was from motorcycles. Councilmember Jenson asked staff if this would be possible. Mr. Paul responded regulations could be generated by City Council; however there could be enforcement issues.

15.2. Duane Keys wishes to address City Council.

Duane Keys addressed City Council. Mr. Keys expressed his belief the persistent and disruptive noise from cars, motorcycles, minibikes, and dirt bikes, many of which were unlicensed or illegal for public roadways, had become a significant problem. Mr. Keys thanked the Police Chief for efforts toward the issue. He noted these issues could have a negative impact on the mental health of residents and were an issue of well-being and safety. Mr. Keys asked City Council to lead the charge by directing resources and enforcing laws related to the issue.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson thanked Mr. Keys for speaking. He noted the seizure and destruction of street bikes had seemed to be effective in New York City and could be worth exploring.

Councilmember Horton thanked Mr. Keys for speaking. She noted ForwardSGF and Code updates would build upon how the City was redeveloped. Councilmember Horton further noted there was a line of demarcation regarding the City becoming more car-centric versus pedestrian friendly. She thanked Mr. Keys for challenging the public philosophy in effort to make the design of streets safer, quieter, more engaging, and in promoting economic activity and vitality.

15.3. Larry Halverson wishes to address City Council.

Larry Halverson addressed City Council. Mr. Halverson thanked City Council for hearing those speaking on noise disturbances. He noted he moved downtown in 2020, and it was wonderful. Mr. Halverson noted the number of attractions, businesses, and restaurants downtown was appealing. Mr. Halverson expressed his belief there were several issues that inhibited continued growth and development downtown, especially noise. He added the noise from primarily motorcycles could reach over 80 decibels and occurred an average of every 3.5 minutes each night. Mr. Halverson noted motorcycles were dangerous and created hazards for pedestrians. Mr. Halverson expressed his belief the noise had hurt his hearing and sleep and felt the problem was increasing.

Councilmember Jenson asked for clarity that Mr. Halverson knew of individuals who chose not to invest time or money into downtown due to the issues. Mr. Halverson responded affirmatively and expressed his belief this was more than just a quality-of-life issue.

15.4. Morris Dock wishes to address City Council.

Morris Dock addressed City Council. Mr. Dock noted he had asked the City to implement speed bumps or signs to slow traffic downtown. He expressed his belief safety issues were beyond control and noted motorcycles went through the downtown area every 30 minutes, with some motorcycles using the sidewalks.

Councilmember Hosmer asked Mr. Dock how long he had lived downtown and if the issues were increasing. Mr. Dock responded he had been there since 2008, and the issues were increasing. Councilmember Hosmer expressed his belief bad actors were tolerated in the City and that technology should be able to be used to catch offenders. Mr. Dock noted many of the motorcycles were not registered.

Councilmember Carroll noted her experience with the noise issue downtown. Mr. Dock noted the noise had started to begin earlier in the evening and came in waves.

15.5. Robert Iacob wishes to address City Council.

Robert Iacob addressed City Council. Mr. Iacob, CEO of Sleepover, Inc., noted the company partnered with multi-family owners and occupy their vacancies to operate as short-term rentals. He noted their problem with complying as only two short-term rentals were allowed per multi-family dwelling. Mr. Iacob expressed his belief the City had made short-term rentals very restrictive. He asked City Council to pause their municipal trial until the company could become compliant.

16. NEW BUSINESS.

17. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

18. MISCELLANEOUS.

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

19.1. Council Bill 2024-174 (Jenson)

A special ordinance authoring the City Manager, or designee, to enter into a License Agreement with Missouri State University, for the purpose of allowing the installation and maintenance of a public shuttle shelter onto City right-of-way at 901 East Elm Street.

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

20.1. Council Bill 2024-175 (Hardinger)

A resolution confirming the appointment of Lori Vaccaro and the reappointment of Martin Gugel and Matt Schaefer to the Convention and Entertainment Community Improvement District Board of Directors.

Resolution 10781. Council Bill 2024-175 (Hardinger) was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, Councilmember McGull, Mayor Pro Tem Simpson, Councilmember Hosmer, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, and Mayor McClure. Nays: None. Absent: Councilmember Hardinger. Abstain: None.

20.2. Council Bill 2024-176 (Hosmer)

A resolution acknowledging the reappointment of Travis Shaw to the Springfield Enhanced Enterprise Zone Board as the representative of the affected school districts.

Resolution 10782. Council Bill 2024-176 (Hosmer) was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, Councilmember McGull, Mayor Pro Tem Simpson, Councilmember Hosmer, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, and Mayor McClure. Nays: None. Absent: Councilmember Hardinger. Abstain: None.

21. CONSENT AGENDA – SECOND READING BILLS.

22. END OF CONSENT AGENDA.

23. ADJOURN.

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