



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

September 9, 2024

6:30 PM

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

1. ROLL CALL.

Present: Mayor Pro Tem Simpson, Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember McGull, Councilmember Hardinger, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Hosmer, Councilmember Horton, and Mayor McClure. Absent: Councilmember Carroll.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

2.1. Approval of Minutes. August 19, 2024, City Council Meeting, August 27, 2024, Special City Council Meeting, and September 3, 2024, Special City Council Meeting.

Councilmember Jenson moved to approve the August 19, 2024, City Council Meeting, August 27, 2024, Special City Council Meeting, and September 3, 2024, Special City Council Meeting as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Simpson seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, Councilmember McGull, Mayor Pro Tem Simpson, Councilmember Hosmer, Councilmember Hardinger, Councilmember Lee, and Mayor McClure. Nays: None. Absent: Councilmember Carroll. 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.

Councilmember Hosmer asked that Item 19.2 be removed from the consent agenda so he could ask a question of staff. Item 19.2, Council Bill 2024-192, was removed from Consent Agenda First Reading Bills, and became Item 14.12 under First Reading Bills Requiring Two Readings.

The Consent Agenda was approved as amended by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, Councilmember McGull, Mayor Pro Tem Simpson, Councilmember Hosmer, Councilmember Hardinger, Councilmember Lee, and Mayor McClure. Nays: None. Absent: Councilmember Carroll. Abstain: None.

4. CEREMONIAL MATTERS.

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

Jason Gage, City Manager, noted the Finance Department was awarded the Government Finance Officer's Certificate of Achievement for the 47th consecutive year. He further noted the importance of this recognition. Mr. Gage noted the Springfield Fire Department Bomb Squad was recently reaccruited by the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI). He added the City's Intercultural Development Department received a certificate of recognition by the Missouri State University Office of Citizenship and Service-Learning Team.

Mr. Gage noted the Fire Department responded to over 3,000 calls for service from April to June and the average response time was six minutes and 29 seconds.

Mr. Gage noted the Community was involved in a number of community initiatives. He further noted the Gun Safety and Violence Reduction Collaborative announced a three-year grant combined with 90,000 of funding approved by City Council, which was part of a total investment of \$612,630 to investigate gun safety as it relates to gun violence and suicide of youth in relation to firearms. He added the collaborative wanted to emphasize a safe place for youth and young adults to convene for personal expression development workshops and safe space, and to work with trained outreach workers. Mr. Gage further noted the Community Partnership of the Ozarks purchased a building in the north downtown area for a purpose driven day center. He added City Council authorized \$3 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the initiative which anticipated opening in spring of next year.

Mr. Gage noted the City Employee Picnic would be held on October 2 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Jordan Valley Park.

Mayor McClure thanked and commended Praise Assembly of God church. He noted attending the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Northeast Community Park, which the church developed and funded as a gift to the community.

6. SECOND READING AND FINAL PASSAGE.

Citizens Have Spoken. May Be Voted On.

6.1. 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.

Councilmember Hosmer asked if the Springfield Police Officers Association (SPOA) agreed to the five-person reduction or if it was agreed to by the Union. Mr. Gage responded he understood it to be agreed to by the union as part of the negotiation process. Mr. Gage added it would change the number of authorized strength by five. Mr. Gage further noted the Police Department does not reach five vacancies under normal circumstances and if successful in hiring there could be opportunity to restore the funds later if needed. Councilmember Hosmer expressed his belief it seemed counterintuitive to use money to help with law enforcement while reducing the number of authorized Police Officer positions. Mr. Gage responded the reduction of Police Officer authorized positions and the marijuana sales tax funds were separate items but both budgetary.

Ordinance 28043. Council Bill 2024-173 (Carroll) was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, Councilmember McGull, Mayor Pro Tem Simpson, Councilmember Hosmer, Councilmember Hardinger, Councilmember Lee, Mayor McClure. Nays: None. Absent: Councilmember Carroll. Abstain: None.

7. RESOLUTIONS.

Citizens May Speak. May Be Voted On.

7.1. Council Bill 2024-178 (Simpson)

A resolution initiating the rezoning of 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 and establishing a Conditional Overlay District.

Councilmember Lee and Mayor McClure recused themselves from Council Bill 2024-178 and left the dais.

Steve Childers, Director of Planning and Development, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Mr. Childers noted the proposed had come before City Council at the last meeting. He further noted the purpose of the application was to rezone a parcel of property from Low-Density Multifamily Residential to Office District with a Conditional Overlay District. Mr. Childers added the rezoning failed at the last meeting. Three Councilmembers recused and one was absent creating a four-to-one vote. Mr. Childers noted the proposed resolution would initiate the rezoning process so the project could be reconsidered.

Councilmember Hosmer asked if the City were going to change the way in which buffer zones were enforced. Mr. Childers responded there was a bufferyard required for the project. He added landscaping regulations were enforced by Building Development Services. He added the proposed was to approve the zoning and it was difficult to determine future enforcement. Councilmember Hosmer expressed his concern that neighborhoods were told there was a buffer zone, and the zone would not be enforced. He noted developers were supposed to maintain the bufferyards, but further expressed his belief maintenance was not enforced. Mr. Gage noted issues were followed up on when the City was aware of one. He added the City would research how to leverage itself to take more initiative.

Councilmember Hosmer noted Tree City USA expressed interest in checking for properties that had not been maintained. Mr. Gage responded they could not serve in an enforcement role but could possibly be a resource for determining what buffers had not been maintained.

Councilmember McGull asked if the proposed senior living facility for veterans and others proposed a bufferyard that was in compliance with the Comprehensive Plan and if so, was that plan unanimously approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission. Mr. Childers responded affirmatively. Councilmember McGull asked if the developer had any previous bufferyard abuses or anything of that nature. Mr. Childers responded not to his knowledge.

An opportunity was given for citizens to express their views.

Dave Bodeen, a representative for the Pinnacle Design Consultants, spoke in support of the proposed. Mr. Bodeen thanked City Council and staff. He noted the neighbors were fully in support of the change. He noted the neighbors' two main concerns were multi-story buildings and retention of a gate at the end of Buena Vista. Mr. Bodeen further noted they pledged for all construction, through the first 400 feet of the west 400 feet would be single level construction. He added, according to staff, there was nothing in the change that would spur removal of the gate. Mr. Bodeen noted the bufferyard would surpass the minimum standard and provide extra trees.

Councilmember Jenson asked what was done to ensure the bufferyard was sustainable long term. Mr. Bodeen responded the plants to be used come from the City of Springfield's recommended list.

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

Councilmember Horton expressed her support for the resolution. She noted not wanting to set a precedent of policymaking based on uncertainty for future concerns.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson expressed his support for the proposed. He noted the responsibility as City Council was to consider the merits of the proposal. He further noted the proposed project was recommended for passage by the Planning and Zoning Commission and by City Staff. Mayor Pro Tem Simpson added the proposed was supported by the neighborhood, and provided homes for senior citizens, which directly aligned with the housing priority.

Councilmember Hosmer expressed his support for the proposed. He expressed his belief the City needed a plan for enforcement of buffer zones. He noted his opposition was in reference to primary enforcement. He expressed his belief existing laws need to be enforced.

Resolution 10783. Council Bill 2024-178 (Simpson) was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, Councilmember McGull, Mayor Pro Tem Simpson, Councilmember Hosmer, Councilmember Hardinger. Nays: None. Absent: Councilmember Carroll. Abstain: None.

Councilmember Lee and Mayor McClure returned to the dais.

8. EMERGENCY BILLS.

9. PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

10. GRANTS. Citizens May Speak. May Be Voted On.

10.1. Council Bill 2024-179 (Carroll)

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to accept an Airport Terminal Program Grant from the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, to the City of Springfield, Missouri by and through the Springfield-Branson National Airport Board, in an amount of \$5,357,143, for the purpose of providing funds for the construction of five passenger boarding bridges at Springfield-Branson National Airport; requiring the Airport to provide matching funds in the amount of \$281,954.90; amending the budget of the Airport Board for fiscal year 2024-2025 in the amount of \$5,539,097.90; and declaring that this Ordinance qualifies for approval in one reading pursuant to City Charter Section 2.16(25).

David Schaumburg, Assistant Director of Aviation, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Mr. Schaumburg noted the proposed was an item staff had been working on for a couple of years and was a unique opportunity within the bipartisan infrastructure law to pursue some competitive discretionary grants. He added this was a need for the Airport. Mr. Schaumburg further noted the Airport had ten passenger boarding bridges with five of those in need of replacement as they had surpassed their useful life. He added the bridge cost was at over \$1 million each, and receiving the funds would be a benefit to the Airport.

Councilmember McGull thanked Mr. Schaumburg for the update and asked if the old bridges would be salvaged. Mr. Schaumburg responded within the contract the installer would take them back and possibly salvage the metal material for other purposes.

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

Ordinance 28044. Council Bill 2024-179 (Carroll) was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, Councilmember McGull, Mayor Pro Tem Simpson, Councilmember Hosmer, Councilmember Hardinger, Councilmember Lee, and Mayor McClure. Nays: None. Absent: Councilmember Carroll. Abstain: None.

11. AMENDED BILLS.

12. COUNCIL BILLS FOR PUBLIC HEARING.

13. FIRST READING BILLS. Requiring One Reading.

14. FIRST READING BILLS. Requiring Two Readings.

Citizens May Speak. Not Anticipated To Be Voted On.

14.1. Council Bill 2024-180 (Hosmer)

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 Non-Union Schedule by adding two new job titles and deleting one job title.

Darla Morrison, Director of Human Resources, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Ms. Morrison noted the proposed would allow the addition of two new job titles, one for the Police Department and one at the Springfield-Branson National Airport. She added both job titles were recommended as the result of completed job studies and would address Human Resource needs in both departments. Ms. Morrison further noted the proposed would allow the deletion of one vacant Airport position that was not currently utilized. There would be no budget adjustment required for either position.

Councilmember Jenson asked what necessitated the two job studies to be completed. Ms. Morrison responded in the Police Department, an incumbent had taken on higher level responsibilities and changes in operations for general aviation at the Airport triggered the other job study. Councilmember Jenson asked if all promotions required a job study. Ms. Morrison responded job title additions or deletions need to be approved by City Council. Councilmember Jenson asked if there would be a way to make the process more efficient. Ms. Morrison responded the Human Resources Department could currently make routine job title changes only without City Council approval.

Mayor McClure noted he served for several years on the Personnel Advisory Board at the State level and chaired it. He mentioned the same process was often utilized.

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

14.2. Council Bill 2024-181 (Lee)

A special ordinance approving the Third Amendment to the July 1, 2022, Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Springfield, Missouri and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers AFL-CIO Union Number 753, the Exclusive Representative of a certain Bargaining Unit within the Crafts, Trades, and Labor employee group; and authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to execute the Third Amendment.

Darla Morrison, Director of Human Resources, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Ms. Morrison noted the proposed was an update for the IBEW Crafts, Trades, and Labor collective bargaining agreement. She added both parties had agreed to the proposed amendment which provided guaranteed overtime for a specific position at the airport that was responsible for all flights that come in. Ms. Morrison further noted midnight was currently the last flight but could be delayed due to weather in Springfield or connecting cities. She added a trainer sometimes helps when this occurred and the proposed would provide for guaranteed overtime. Ms. Morrison noted there was no budget adjustment required.

Councilmember McGull expressed his support for the proposed. He noted the proposed makes sense as it would be a benefit for individuals visiting Springfield, which is a city of hospitality.

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

14.3. Council Bill 2024-182 (Horton)

A special ordinance granting an exception to the Comprehensive Housing Assistance Program ("CHAP") boundary for the Maplewood Villas Phase II development located at 3905 West Maple Street; and authorizing the Department of Planning and Development to approve a \$525,000 loan for the Maplewood Villas Phase II development with a reduced interest rate from the rate established in the CHAP Rules.

Bob Jones, Grants Administrator, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Mr. Jones noted the proposed was a request for adjustments to the Comprehensive Housing Assistance Program (CHAP) regulations that would assist the Maplewood Villas Phase II project. He further noted Maplewood Villas II would create 32 rental units for seniors and veterans aged 55 and up. Mr. Jones further noted the development was just outside the current United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding target area and would be an exception which required City Council approval. Mr. Jones added the exception was a loan term of a 20-year fixed-rate loan at 0.75 percent interest. He noted the project gains extra points for the dollar amount, and it provided much needed affordable housing.

Councilmember Horton asked how much would remain in the revolving loan fund if the proposed were approved. Mr. Jones responded approximately \$2 million with some of that earmarked for specific projects. Councilmember Horton noted the interest rate drop from 5 percent to 0.75 percent was significant.

An opportunity was given for citizens to express their views.

Meleah Spencer, CEO of The Kitchen, Inc., spoke in support of the proposed. Ms. Spencer expressed her belief the project was a meaningful step forward in addressing a critical need in the community. She noted in December 2023 they received approval from the Missouri Housing development Commission for Maplewood Villas phase two through the low-income housing tax credit program. Ms. Spencer further noted Maplewood Villas Phase II was an extension of the original. She added all units were leased within 30 days of receiving occupancy permits. Ms. Spencer noted Maplewood Villas II would consist of 32 units, with 8 units specifically reserved for veterans, which would be referred by The Kitchen, Inc., and the Veterans Administration. She added of the remaining units, four would be for households at or below the 30 percent median income with rents at \$435 per month, and four units available at a market rate of \$750 per month. The remainder of the units would be available to households at or below 60 percent median income with rents at \$560 per month. Ms. Spencer noted all

units would feature two bedrooms and one bathroom with onsite case management.

Ms. Spencer further noted the current waiting list was 124 applicants.

Councilmember Jenson asked if the units would be Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant and if the rents were below the fair market rate for rents. Ms. Spencer responded affirmatively.

Councilmember Horton asked if there were any projects in the queue for The Kitchen, Inc. that would target families. Ms. Spencer responded they would be open to having another family development similar to Beacon Village. She added they also had Spero Place which did allow for families. Councilmember Horton noted the housing study showed need for those who were at the 30 percent or lower median family income. She asked how many units total would be reserved for this need. Ms. Spencer responded twelve.

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

14.4. Council Bill 2024-183 (Carroll)

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to enter into a Cost Apportionment Agreement with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission, Greene County, and Ozarks Transportation Organization to share costs associated with various quality of place and other aesthetic improvements over and under Interstate 44 between Kansas Expressway and Glenstone Avenue and on New Melville Road over Interstate 44; and amending the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget for the Department of Public Works in the amount of \$2,250,000 to appropriate \$2,200,000 of federal Surface Transportation Block Grant – Urban funds and \$50,000 of 1/8-cent Transportation Sales Tax fund balance reserves for this project.

Dan Smith, Director of Public Works, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Mr. Smith noted the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) had been working on an Interstate 44 widening project to widen to six lanes between Kansas Avenue and Glenstone Avenue. He added the City had been coordinating with MoDOT on aesthetic improvements to the corridor and partnered with the Ozarks Transportation Organization (OTO). Mr. Smith further noted the proposed would provide \$2 million in federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds toward aesthetic improvements and pedestrian and bicycle improvements. Mr. Smith added there would be an underpass around the Doling Park area and another \$200,000 in federal STBG funds for overruns on the aesthetic, which the City was responsible for. Mr. Smith further noted the project was in accordance with the City's Quality of Place. Bridge esthetics included lighting and form liners to improve the appearance of the concrete.

Councilmember McGull expressed his support for the aesthetic improvements and noted highways established years ago did not lend themselves to traffic-calming and aesthetics. Mr. Smith noted the proposed would improve four bridge locations on the corridor.

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

14.5. Council Bill 2024-184 (Lee)

A special ordinance approving the 2024-2028 1/4-cent Capital Improvement Sales Tax ("CIST") and the 2025-2029 1/8-cent Transportation Sales Tax ("TST") projects and programs; and amending the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget of the City of Springfield, Missouri, in the amount of \$11,000,000 to appropriate CIST and TST reserves for the same.

Dan Smith, Director of Public Works, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Mr. Smith noted the proposed would bring previously presented 1/4-cent and 1/8-cent proposed projects forward for City Council action. He further noted in 2019, citizens approved the current list of projects and programs that were being currently constructed and designed. He added citizens also approved the sunset to extend to 20 years. Mr. Smith noted one of the successes of the program was the input of citizens to determine the priorities of the projects and programs chosen. He added the last survey was completed in August to September of the previous year. Mr. Smith further noted 1500 responses were received, and the top items included high volume corridors, with resurfacing and maintenance of City Streets and improving traffic flow at the top. Mr. Smith further noted 64 percent of citizens were in favor of increasing the current level of investment in the City's roadway pavement conditions, and 60 percent were in favor of funding infrastructure projects dedicated to industry, business, and growth. He added how much benefit the project would bring to the community was considered. Safety, infrastructure condition, economic development and flood mitigation were considered. Mr. Smith noted City Council zones were considered to ensure work was allocated around the City. Mr. Smith noted the proposed projects included corridor studies for Campbell Avenue from Primrose to Powell, Sunshine Street from Grant Avenue to Glenstone Avenue, and Division Street from Glenstone Avenue to U.S. 65 Highway. The proposed would also provide construction funding for projects on Fremont Avenue, Kansas Avenue, Campbell Avenue, and Scenic Avenue. Mr. Smith noted the Stormwater Program included surveys of infrastructure conditions which found several needs, Art Museum improvements included approximately \$14.5 million debt service for phase one, and the Jefferson Avenue Footbridge included approximately \$4 million in debt service for additional funding needed. Mr. Smith added proposed City-wide programs included resurfacing, sidewalk repair, reforestation, landscaping, and other day-to-day items.

Councilmember Jenson asked the anticipated use for Center City Development funds. Mr. Smith responded he did not have specifics for that, but they had at various times covered local match for streetscapes and other needs in the Center City area. Councilmember Jenson asked if noise dampening in parking garages could be an eligible use for those funds. Mr. Smith responded affirmatively noting the need would have to fit the definition of a capital improvement and was City owned infrastructure. Councilmember Jenson noted next year was the last year body-worn cameras would be paid for out of Minor Neighborhood Improvement funds.

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

14.6. Council Bill 2024-185 (Hosmer)

A special ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget for the Department of Environmental Services in the amount of \$1,600,000 to appropriate retained earnings from the Clean Water Fund for the Southwest Wastewater Treatment Plant Ozone Generator Restoration.

Brian Wirth, Superintendent of Clean Water Services, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Mr. Wirth noted the proposed budget adjustment in the amount of \$1.6 million from retained earnings of the Clean Water Fund would be utilized for Southwest Wastewater Treatment Plant ozone generator restoration. Mr. Wirth further noted the plant was required to disinfect as the final step of the treatment process for the operating permit. He added they disinfect with ozone. Mr. Wirth noted they have two Mitsubishi ozone generators that were functioning at 70 percent of the design capacity. He added the proposed investment represented the cost from the Ozone System Services Group to restore the systems to the original desired capacity.

Councilmember Hosmer asked if the ozone was used right before the water was discharged. Mr. Wirth responded it was the last step before the water was discharged into Wilson's Creek. Councilmember Hosmer asked if the system caught other materials. Mr. Wirth responded ozone was a strong oxidizer which also breaks down other things.

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

14.7. Council Bill 2024-186 (Carroll)

A general ordinance approving the City Utilities' Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget for its Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2025.

Louise Knauer, Board Vice Chair for City Utilities, introduced the proposed. Ms. Knauer noted the City Utilities Board held an extended study session to discuss priorities. She added the charge was to provide safe, reliable, and affordable utility services to the community. Ms. Knauer further noted the Board continued to focus on the resiliency of their infrastructure and advancement of the quality of life by investing in critical assets. Ms. Knauer added the budget included a strong focus on infrastructure, natural gas and water main renewals, electric pole replacements and backup generator, and vegetation management. Mr. Knauer further noted the budget included a transit fare reduction effective October 1, 2024, if approved.

Gary Gibson, President/CEO of City Utilities, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Mr. Gibson thanked the City Utilities Board and City Council for time spent reviewing the budget. He noted the budget focused on reliability and balanced affordability and sustainability. Mr. Gibson further noted the challenge over the next several years was to remain ahead of the changing electric landscape.

Amy Derald, Sr. Vice President, Chief Financial and Supply Chain Officer of City Utilities, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Ms. Derald noted City Utilities expected to have approximately 39 percent zero emissions, primarily from wind. She further noted City Utilities was proud of their diverse portfolio of power supply coming from dispatchable generation, as well as wind and a minor amount from solar. Ms. Derald added they also purchase any power needs that were cost-effective from Southwest Power Pool. Ms. Derald noted there was significant participation in energy efficiency programs, including weatherization. Ms. Derald further noted Springfield had the lowest residential bill when considering electric, natural gas and water services when compared to 13 peer cities. She added City Utilities expects slightly higher receipts at a total of \$656 million, with expectations for a normal winter. Ms. Derald noted City Utilities expected expenditures of \$641 million, with fuels as the bulk of the

expenditures expected to be a little less in 2025. She added they were requesting \$895,437,900 for disbursement authority, which included normal expenditures and a business volatility and contingency fund of \$55 million. Ms. Derald noted this also included a future power supply amount of \$200 million. She further noted community services were budgeted at \$17.6 million for the next year. She added public transit services would be a deficit.

Councilmember Jenson asked what costs were comprised in the \$4.6 million increase for customers and administrative expenditures. Ms. Derald responded that included customer service, finance cost, customer meter costs, information technology, and bad debts.

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

14.8. Council Bill 2024-187 (Hosmer)

A general ordinance approving revisions to natural gas rates charged by City Utilities of Springfield, Missouri, and related terms and conditions.

Austin Beshears, Director of Rates and Fuels for City Utilities, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Mr. Beshears noted the first of a series of three base electric and water rate increases were implemented in 2024. He further noted the proposed would allow for a series of three annual natural gas rate increases, averaging from 2.5 percent to 3.9 percent, to be effective in October 2025, 2026, and 2027. He added the increases were phased out to minimize the impact on customers. Mr. Beshears noted the increases were projected to generate approximately \$11.5 million from 2025 through 2029. He added the average customer impact was estimated to be approximately \$7.44. Mr. Beshears noted the natural gas rate proposal was designed in accordance with the Board of Public Utilities rate policy standards. He added the rates needed to generate revenue necessary to provide services that customers need, to be stable, and be fair to customers. City Utilities engaged a consultant on the cost-of-service study and the rate design. He added natural gas rates supported the costs of the natural gas system along with natural gas' share of common costs, including the transit system. Mr. Beshears noted there had not been a base natural gas rate increase in nearly five years. He added non-residential impacts would vary by customer class and usage. Mr. Beshears further noted natural gas customers paid approximately 75 percent of the national average and 55 percent of the state average.

Councilmember McGull asked if City Utilities was looking at the further use of liquified natural gas. Mr. Beshears responded City Utilities had a propane air peak shaving plant to use as a resource during peak winter storms but was not sure liquified natural gas had been reviewed.

Councilmember Hosmer asked if the rate increases for residential customers were the same as for commercial industrial customers. Mr. Beshears responded there was a slight variation with everyone's increase within the approximately 3 percent total. He added residential customers outside the city limits would have the same increase. Councilmember Hosmer asked about the change to the curtailable gas service rate. Mr. Beshears responded the multiplier over the index price was change two years ago and the general terms and conditions were clarified.

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

14.9. Council Bill 2024-188 (Hardinger)

A general ordinance authorizing revisions to transit rates charged by City Utilities of Springfield, Missouri, and related terms and conditions.

Kelly Turner, Vice President of Customer Operations and Communications for City Utilities (CU), provided a brief overview of the proposed. Mr. Turner noted the Connect SGF Transit Optimization study was completed at the beginning of the year. He noted the transit fare structure was evaluated with the study showing the fares were exceedingly affordable. Mr. Turner further noted the proposed provide a 20 percent reduction in transit fares and a transfer increase from 10 cents to 25 cents. He added, if approved, the fares would go into effect on October 1.

An opportunity was given for citizens to express their views.

Natasha Longpine, the Transportation Planning Manager with the Ozarks Transportation Organization (OTO), spoke in support of the proposed. Ms. Longpine noted OTO had a long history of partnering with CU Transit and considering how transit could best serve the region. Ms. Longpine further noted the rate reduction would provide additional access for those most under-resourced in the community. She added OTO hoped City Council and the community understood the value the high-quality transit service provided.

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

14.10. Council Bill 2024-189 (Hardinger, Hosmer, Carroll, Lee)

A general ordinance repealing City of Springfield Code Chapter 74 – Nuisance and Housing Code, Article VI. – Rental Property Registration.

Martin Gugel, Interim Director of Building Development Services, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Mr. Gugel noted the proposed was a result of the direction of the City Council passed resolution that directed the City Manager and the Community Involvement Committee to review and make recommendations regarding nuisance abatement in response to the Nuisance Property Work Group report. He added it was determined to repeal the rental registration program that had been inactive since 2019. Mr. Gugel further noted it had become obsolete as the data could be acquired from other alternative sources. He added repealing the program would streamline processes and better allocate resources towards effective nuisance abatement measures.

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

14.11. Council Bill 2024-190 (Hardinger, Hosmer, Carroll, Lee)

A general ordinance amending City of Springfield Code Chapter 26 – Buildings and Building Regulations, Article III. – Dangerous, Blighted and Nuisance Building Code, sections 26-62, 26-74, 26-77, 26-79, 26-80, 26-82, 26-83, and 26-84.

Martin Gugel, Interim Director of Building Development Services, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Mr. Gugel noted the proposed would amend City Code based on review of the nuisance property code for substantial progress and chronic nuisances. He added recommendations were made to better define substantial progress and would allow an outside observer to reasonably conclude there had been considerable abatement of the conditions that made the property a danger, nuisance, or in need of maintenance. Mr. Gugel noted two changes in the purposed regarding the nuisance itself would be properties in which there was a final order under Section 26-70 two or more times under the same ownership, or properties with two or more properties under the same ownership. He expressed his belief the clarifications would help in handling nuisance properties.

Councilmember Jenson asked how many entities would be identified as chronic nuisance properties under the changes. Mr. Gugel responded he would provide that information. Councilmember Jenson asked if Mr. Gugel believed the changes would allow the department to take a stronger enforcement approach against violators. Mr. Gugel responded affirmatively.

Councilmember Horton asked for an update on the Full-Time Employee Property Care Teams that were approved by City Council. Mr. Gugel responded hiring that staff member would be a good start but there could also be opportunities from the community and volunteers.

An opportunity was given for citizens to express their views.

Brian Paschall addressed City Council. Mr. Paschall expressed his belief something needed to be done about nuisance properties. He added there were nuisance properties in his neighborhood. Mr. Paschall noted he had contacted the City and added the properties in his neighborhood had trash and mosquito problems. Mr. Paschall expressed his belief these issues could have health impacts. Mr. Paschall offered as a possible solution the blighted houses could be adopted and renovated.

Councilmember Horton noted the properties were private property and noted Mr. Paschall had taken the proper steps by calling the Citizens Resource Center. She added one recommendation was to gain citizen input on a rental property inspection program and encouraged the input when that time comes.

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

14.12. Council Bill 2024-192 (Lee)

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to enter into a Municipal and Cost Apportionment Agreement with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission to share costs associated with quality of place and other aesthetic improvements on new lighting and signal poles located at the northbound and southbound US Highway 65 ramps at Evans Road.

This item was removed from Consent Agenda - First Reading Bills Item 19.2 and became Item 14.12 under First Reading Bills - Two Readings Required.

Dan Smith, Director of Public Works, was available to answer questions. Councilmember Hosmer noted there was previous discussion on putting cameras up at MoDOT locations and asked if there had been any progress on that. Mr. Smith responded the Police Chief had worked with MoDOT to place certain flock cameras in MoDOT right-of-way but did not believe they were connected to the signal system. Councilmember Hosmer asked about placing City cameras at these locations. Mr. Smith responded that would be a better question for the Police Chief. Councilmember Hosmer asked if it could be determined how many State intersections have cameras. He noted the Police Chief reported four of the crime hotspots were State maintained intersections. He expressed his belief it would be a benefit to the City to have access to that technology. Mr. Smith responded they would find out and relay the information.

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. Tim Havens wishes to address City Council.

Tim Havens addressed City Council. Mr. Havens expressed his belief the role of management was to be proactive in addressing issues. He further expressed his belief elevator issues at Jenny Lind apartments were an emergency issue. He noted many residents of Jenny Lind were elderly and disabled. He further noted the elevator issues cause a problem for the residents. Mr. Havens expressed his belief the fines for not maintaining the property needed to be heftier and the City should be more proactive.

15.2. Brian Paschall wishes to address City Council.

Brian Paschall addressed City Council. Mr. Paschall noted issues he had experienced with homeless individuals. He further noted homeless individuals congregate near old City Hall. Mr. Paschall further noted the number of fires that had been set among the abandoned rail line. He added there had been issues with homeless individuals stealing electricity and water from citizens and businesses. He noted homeless individuals do not adhere to crosswalk safety protocol. Mr. Paschall expressed his belief some of the agencies that support the homeless should be responsible.

15.3. Robert Iacob wishes to address City Council.

Robert Iacob addressed City Council. Mr. Iacob expressed his belief there was some miscommunication regarding collection of short-term rental tax. Mr. Iacob agreed the tax needed to be paid and noted Airbnb had stated all tax had been collected and remitted as of August 30. Mr. Iacob further noted the City showed no tax for his business had been collected or remitted. Mr. Iacob expressed his belief the short-term rental type III ordinance was extremely restrictive.

15.4. Kari Hoggard wishes to address City Council.

Kari Hoggard addressed City Council. Ms. Hoggard spoke concerning the safety of motorcycle traffic downtown. She expressed her belief the recreational traffic had taken over downtown. Ms. Hoggard suggested better signage on the parking garage may be helpful.

15.5. Kristine wishes to address City Council.

Cristine Thomas, a downtown business owner, addressed City Council. Ms. Thomas expressed her concern about the safety of downtown traffic. She added vehicles were doing tricks in proximity to patrons of downtown businesses. Ms. Thomas expressed her belief it would be beneficial to post reduced speed signs and flashing yellow lights at the intersections leading into Park Central Square, and to repaint crosswalks for better visibility. She added more police presence could also be beneficial to the area.

16. NEW BUSINESS.

16.1. 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.

16.2. The Mayor recommends the following appointment to the Springfield-Greene County Public Library Board: Mar'Ellen Felin with term to expire October 1, 2025.

16.3. The City Manager recommends the following appointment to the Art Museum Board: Steve Kirks with term to expire June 1, 2027.

* Clerk's Note: Steve Kirks withdrew from consideration.

16.4. The City Manager recommends the following appointment to the Art Museum Board: Christina Pike with term to expire June 1, 2026.

16.5. The City Manager recommends the following reappointments to the Art Museum Board: Amanda Stadler and Lindsey Kelsay with terms to expire June 1, 2027.

17. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

18. MISCELLANEOUS.

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

19.1. Council Bill 2024-191 (Carroll)

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to accept funds in the amount of \$36,500 from Mercy Hospital Springfield, through The Bobby Allison Fund, for use by the Springfield-Greene County Health Department's Family Connects Program; and amending the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget in the amount of \$36,500 to appropriate the grant funds.

19.2. Council Bill 2024-192 (Lee)

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to enter into a Municipal and Cost Apportionment Agreement with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission to share costs associated with quality of place and other aesthetic improvements on new lighting and signal poles located at the northbound and southbound US Highway 65 ramps at Evans Road.

This item was removed from Consent Agenda - First Reading Bills Item 19.2 and became Item 14.12 under First Reading Bills - Two Readings Required.

20. CONSENT AGENDA – ONE READING BILLS.

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

21.1. Council Bill 2024-174 (Jenson)

A special ordinance authorizing 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.

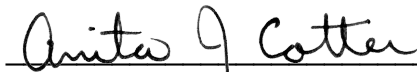
Ordinance 28045. Council Bill 2024-174(Jenson) was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, Councilmember McGull, Mayor Pro Tem Simpson, Councilmember Hosmer, Councilmember Hardinger, Councilmember Lee, Mayor McClure. Nays: None. Absent: Councilmember Carroll. Abstain: None.

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 Hardinger, Councilmember Lee, and Mayor McClure. Nays: Councilmember Hosmer. Absent: Councilmember Carroll. Abstain: None.

Prepared by: Michelle Kaasa


Anita J. Cotter, MMC/MRCC City Clerk