



City of Springfield

Minutes

City Council Meeting

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

February 24, 2025

6:30 PM

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

1. ROLL CALL.

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

2.1. Approval of Minutes. February 6, 2025, Special City Council Meeting and February 11, 2025, Special City Council Meeting.

Councilmember Lee moved to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2025, Special City Council Meeting and the February 11, 2025, Special City Council Meeting as presented. 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 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.

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

4. CEREMONIAL MATTERS.

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

Collin Quigley, Interim City Manager, thanked Public Works and the Public Safety Departments for their response to the recent winter weather event. He noted Public Works crews worked to clear roads, while 911, Police, and Fire responded to emergencies, in coordination with area hospital EMS providers. He further noted the Department of Public Information and Civic Engagement kept the community informed and fielded questions and concerns through the Citizen Resource Center.

Mr. Quigley noted the City would host a public outdoor groundbreaking ceremony for the Renew Jordan Creek project at 2:00 p.m. on March 14 at the project site. He further noted Renew Jordan Creek was a transformative project to restore the Historic Jordan Creek that flowed through the heart of downtown Springfield. The primary objectives of the project were to reduce flood damage to property and infrastructure from recurrent flooding, renew the area of downtown for enhanced economic development, and improve water quality in Jordan Creek.

Chief Williams provided City Council with a copy of the Springfield Police Department Annual Report and provided an update. Chief Williams noted crime was relatively flat after a four-year decline. He further noted crime was cyclical and provided an update for Crimes Against Persons, Crimes Against Property, and Crimes Against Society. He noted Crimes Against Persons decreased 1.4 percent. Chief Williams noted there was a significant decrease in murder, non-negligent manslaughter, and negligent manslaughter. Chief Williams further noted there was a decline in Crimes Against Property. He added the largest increase in this category was for shoplifting, which was experienced increasingly in big box stores. Chief Williams noted the Police Department was working with these entities to offer suggestions to keep shoplifting to a minimum. He added theft of a motor vehicle decreased by 21 percent. Chief Williams further noted Crimes Against Society increased approximately 15 percent. He added this was due to the number of gambling violations and an increase in drug violations.

Chief Williams noted the City had 48 spots for Municipal Prisoners, with an average of 20 to 25 used. Chief Williams reported the number of shots-fired calls was 224 with 33 individuals injured, which was approximately one-third of that over the last few years. He added shots-fired was reduced overall citywide. Chief Williams noted 2024 was the first time the department had been under 100,000 calls for service in a few years, which would allow more time for proactive police work. Chief Williams further noted the number of traffic stops increased, with an average of 94 car stops per month. He added non-injury crashes remained consistent, while there was a significant decline in injury crashes and fatalities. Chief Williams further noted there were 2,000 fewer citations issued in 2024. He added there were ten vacancies in the traffic unit, with a couple of retirements last year. Chief Williams noted there were 2,200 tickets written in 2024 for expired, temporary, or no tags. He added direct patrol was established to impact the issue.

Chief Williams noted all 100 vouchers were handed out for the Lights Out Program which assisted individuals with equipment violations. He added there were four partner repair shops that accepted the vouchers. Chief Williams further noted the department received 100 additional vouchers last week and would reinstate the program.

Chief Williams noted they were tracking the miles driven by Patrol Officers. He further noted the average number driven was between 80 and 100 miles per shift. Chief Williams noted the UAV (Drone) Unit had two officers assigned, and they had been active in assisting patrol. He further noted two drones were added, one with a docking station that would be mounted onto one of the buildings in the City.

Chief Williams provided an update on staffing. He noted there were 58 vacant positions, and 16 in the Police Academy were due to graduate in March. Chief Williams further noted the next class was set to begin in June, with 5 currently hired and 20 in the process. Chief Williams noted there were 3 vacancies for Police Service Representatives and expressed his belief those would be fully staffed in the next month. He further noted they hoped to expand lobby hours at headquarters and eventually open both stations to the public. Chief Williams noted recruiting efforts included local ads, a new television spot, and a statewide television and radio campaign. Chief Williams noted the attrition rate was 5.5 percent for sworn and 4.5 percent for non-sworn employees. He added this was a significant decrease from previous years.

Councilmember McGull asked for clarification on pedestrian violations. Chief Williams responded fail to yield to pedestrians was part of a program with Public Works to cite drivers who failure to yield to a pedestrian in the walkway, and pedestrian violations were those that failed to use crosswalk which could create a traffic hazard. Councilmember McGull asked how many vehicles were in the fleet. Chief Williams responded no police cars were made last year, and they department was approximately one-year behind. He added Police Patrol vehicles were manufactured in Canada, and the department ordered a dozen patrol vehicles and some other vehicles were on order. They were anticipated to arrive in May. He further noted the issue would be having the vehicles outfitted as there was only one vendor in the City to complete the work. Councilmember McGull asked if they could be outfitted elsewhere. Chief Williams responded that could be cost-prohibitive.

Councilmember Jenson thanked Chief Williams for the report and for participating in the KSMU Making Democracy Work series. Councilmember Jenson asked about the pipeline of enforcement in the City. He added he had received concerns from citizens, and that cases Officers filed were not being charged. Councilmember Jenson asked if the issue was being worked on. Chief Williams responded if a citizen noted an officer did not respond, this needed to be brought forward. He added filing of charges in the County was outside the City's discretion. Chief Williams noted he could ask for an update.

Councilmember Hosmer asked if 24 was the number of Traffic Officer vacancies. Chief Williams responded affirmatively and noted he focused on filling Patrol positions first, then special units like traffic later. Councilmember Hosmer asked if the vehicle registration citation and insurance citation were companion tickets. Chief Williams responded they could look at the correlation and noted, to augment traffic enforcement, there was a direct patrol focused on vehicle registration. He further noted proactive traffic stops resulted in taking criminals off the street.

Councilmember Hosmer asked for an update on a recent drone success. Chief Williams responded the drone was deployed to assess an individual experiencing a mental health crisis. He added the officer was able to use the drone to interact with the citizen and take them into custody. He added drones could also be used to view disturbances in large crowds.

Councilmember Horton noted the metrics were trending in the right direction and asked if Chief Williams had reviewed participation rates for the Police Department in the employee survey. Chief Williams responded the feedback was received and noted there was an issue with individuals not listing their department. He suggested more might participate if the survey were completely anonymous. Chief Williams noted the Union completed a survey, and the highlights were payment of benefits, communication, support, and sufficient staffing.

Councilmember McGull asked if the Police Department had an Internal Affairs Department and if so, how many cases there were. Chief Williams noted there was a Sergeant, two Corporals, and an Administrative Assistant in Internal Affairs, and the cases were listed in the annual report.

Councilmember Jenson noted he asked that City Council resume receiving minutes from the weekly Leadership Team meetings that were discontinued in 2023. He expressed his belief the information provided were helpful and asked those be provided. Mr. Quigley responded an update could be provided. He noted the minutes were a long process and were no longer taken. He added there were several internal staff meeting that did not produce minutes. Mr. Quigley further noted questions City Council had regarding specific departmental activities could be forwarded to him.

6. SECOND READING AND FINAL PASSAGE.

Citizens Have Spoken. May Be Voted On.

6.1. Council Bill 2025-026 (Horton)

A general ordinance amending the Springfield Land Development Code, Section 36-306, 'Official zoning map and rules for interpretation,' by rezoning approximately 0.65 acres of property generally located at 2224 and 2234 West Phelps Street from R-TH, Residential Townhouse District to LB, Limited Business District; and adopting an updated Official Zoning Map. (By: Paul Mueller Company; 2224 & 2234 W. Phelps Street; Z-32-2024).

Councilmember Lee recused himself from Council Bill 2025-026 and left the dais.

Councilmember Horton asked if there was any clarification on the process to report any issues regarding the noise ordinance. Mr. Quigley responded any complaint or issue would first go to the Citizens Resource Center at 417-864-1010. He noted the information would be logged in the system and tracked to make sure the concern had been followed up on. He added there was a link on the City website for the Citizens Resource Center. Mr. Quigley noted for this particular case, there had been no complaints in the system for the past two years.

Councilmember Horton expressed her belief just because a complaint was not reported did not mean it was not occurring and further expressed her belief individuals may not always know the proper channels to register a complaint.

Ordinance 6910. Council Bill 2025-026 (Horton) was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, Councilmember McGull, Mayor Pro Tem Simpson, Councilmember Hosmer, Councilmember Hardinger, and Mayor McClure. Nays: None. Absent: Councilmember Carroll and Councilmember Lee. Abstain: None.

Councilmember Lee returned to the dais.

6.2. Council Bill 2025-027 (Horton)

A general ordinance amending the Springfield Land Development Code, Section 36-306, 'Official zoning map and rules for interpretation,' by rezoning approximately 6.4 acres of property generally located at 739 West Talmage Street from R-SF, Single-Family Residential District to Planned Development No. 390; and adopting an updated Official Zoning Map. (By: Baptist Temple of Springfield; 739 West Talmage Street & a portion of 2655 North Grant Avenue; Planned Development No. 390).

Anita Cotter, City Clerk, noted a protest petition was received and found to be insufficient at 1.8 percent. She further noted a copy of the supplemental explanation sheet was given to City Council, and a super majority, or six votes, would not be required for passage.

Ordinance 6911. Council Bill 2025-027 (Horton) 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.

6.3. Council Bill 2025-028 (Jenson)

A special ordinance granting Conditional Use Permit No. 477 for the purpose of permitting an electronic message center in an R-SF, Single-Family Residential District, generally located at 2854 West Grand Street. (By: Greene County Baptist Association Inc.; 2854 West Grand Street; Conditional Use Permit No. 477).

Ordinance 28106. Council Bill 2025-028 (Jenson) 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.

6.4. Council Bill 2025-029 (Horton)

A general ordinance amending the Springfield Land Development Code, Section 36-306, 'Official zoning map and rules for interpretation,' by rezoning approximately 0.47 acres of property generally located at 2242 North Oakland Avenue from R-SF, Single-Family Residential District to R-TH, Residential Townhouse District; establishing Conditional Overlay District No. 267; and adopting an updated Official Zoning Map. (By: SGF Homes LLC; 2242 North Oakland Avenue; Z-1-2025 w/ Conditional Overlay District No. 267).

Ordinance 6912. Council Bill 2025-029 (Horton) 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.

6.5. Council Bill 2025-030 (Horton)

A special ordinance granting Conditional Use Permit No. 479 for the purpose of permitting residential uses on the first-floor frontage of buildings within a GR, General Retail District, generally located at 901 South West Bypass. (By: Carleton Resources, LLC; 901 S. West Bypass; Conditional Use Permit No. 479).

Ordinance 28107. Council Bill 2025-030 (Horton) 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.

6.6. Council Bill 2025-031 (Carroll, McGull, Simpson)

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to accept \$2,500,000 in funds from the Friends of the Springfield Art Museum to support the design and construction of the Springfield Art Museum Renovation and Expansion Project at the Springfield Art Museum; and amending the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget in the amount of \$2,500,000 to appropriate said funds.

Ordinance 28108. Council Bill 2025-031 (Carroll, McGull, Simpson) 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.

6.7. Council Bill 2025-032 (Carroll, McGull, Simpson)

A special ordinance approving the plans and specifications for the Springfield Art Museum Renovation & Expansion Project; accepting the guarantee maximum price proposed by the Whiting-Turner Contracting Company in the amount of \$27,165,846; and authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to enter in a contract with Whiting-Turner Contracting Company for the purpose of constructing said project.

Ordinance 28109. Council Bill 2025-032 (Carroll, McGull, Simpson) 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.

6.8. Council Bill 2025-033 (Horton)

A special ordinance approving the plans and specifications for the Historic City Hall Rehabilitation project; accepting the guaranteed maximum price proposed by J.E. Dunn Construction Company in the amount of \$19,331,366 for said project; authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to enter into a contract with J.E. Dunn Construction Company for the purpose of constructing said project; and amending the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget in the amount of \$6,500,000.

Ordinance 28110. Council Bill 2025-033 (Horton) 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.

6.9. Council Bill 2025-034 (Carroll)

A special ordinance amending the General Fund budget of the City of Springfield, Missouri, for Fiscal Year 2024-2025, by appropriating carryover funds from Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and increasing expenses in the amount of \$1,920,549.

Ordinance 28111. Council Bill 2025-034 (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.

6.10. Council Bill 2025-035 (McClure, Hosmer)

A general ordinance amending the Springfield City Code, Chapter 106, Traffic and Vehicles, Article II, Administration and Enforcement, Division 2, Violations and Procedures Upon Arrest, Section 106-101, Impoundment of Vehicles, for the purpose of authorizing the Police Department to impound vehicles based on missing, invalid, or expired license plates or registration tabs.

Councilmember Hardinger expressed her appreciation for the discussion on the proposed. She noted she would be voting in opposition and expressed her belief the proposed would put an undue burden on many residents who were struggling financially. Councilmember Hardinger further noted Springfield was a car-dependent city with a poverty rate of approximately 20 percent. She added that she understood the importance of vehicle registration and expressed her belief the proposed was not necessarily the right approach. Councilmember Hardinger further expressed her belief the proposed would not solve the root issue and would only create more obstacles for those facing issues. She added it would be in the City's best interest to balance enforcement with practical solutions.

Councilmember McGull noted there was discussion with the Police Department about using discretion when towing vehicles.

Councilmember Hosmer noted there were currently several ways a car could be impounded, and the proposed would add a car out of registration to also be a condition for towing. Chief Williams responded there were approximately six ways a vehicle could be towed, and officers had discretion to determine when a tow was appropriate. Chief Williams further noted they would craft a policy with direction and training. Chief Williams added it was advantageous for cars to be registered when tracking crime and when using flock cameras. He noted safety and security were the top goals.

Councilmember McGull asked if the City only utilized one towing service. Chief Williams noted the City contracted with one towing service for custody tows. He added there was a list of approximately twelve towing services utilized for courtesy tows. Councilmember McGull asked how much the contracted amount was for a tow. Mr. Quigley responded \$90 for the tow, and \$30 per day for storage fees. He added the contract agreement was with Henry's Towing. Councilmember McGull asked the average length of time in storage and noted he would like the City to track this information as well as the number of cars towed per month. Mr. Quigley responded the individual works directly with the towing company, and he would inquire with Henry's Towing. Councilmember McGull asked if the vehicle would have to be released. Chief Williams noted an individual would have to come to the Police Department for a release form to have the vehicle released.

Councilmember Jenson expressed his support for the intent of the proposed. He noted his concern was not with Police Officers being able to make sound decisions in the field. Councilmember Jenson further expressed his concern with what happened after a vehicle was towed. He described that if the vehicle was towed, and then the individual would have to pay their personal property taxes at the Greene County Courthouse and gather documentation to renew their vehicle tags. Councilmember Jenson expressed his concern that once a vehicle was impounded, there would be difficulty in having the vehicle inspected. He further expressed his belief there would be difficulty in making the remainder of the necessary trips to complete the vehicle registration process and have the vehicle released. Councilmember Jenson expressed his belief the majority of individuals with expired tags were not doing so with criminal intent and added the City did not have an audit in place to make sure the terms of the City's contract were being honored. Councilmember Jenson noted the 2022 Survey of Consumer Finances showed individuals at 40 percent of Average Median Income and below had an average of \$900 saved. He expressed his belief he would have been interested in the issue going to a committee. Councilmember Jenson expressed his opposition to the proposed.

Councilmember Hosmer expressed his belief not all who were driving with expired tags were poor. He expressed his belief everyone should pay their share of taxes, which supported schools, those with developmental disabilities, and libraries.

Councilmember Hardinger expressed her concern with the ordinance was there was no pathway to help individuals come into compliance in an easy and quick way. She expressed her belief this should be a consideration.

Councilmember Hosmer asked if the intent of the proposed was to reach habitual offenders that were cited multiple times and those with no license plates. Chief Williams responded the two main goals were to educate individuals and get them to register their vehicles, and to enforce the law. He added towing could be avoided by paying an inspection fee and registration fee. Chief Williams further noted Police Officers would use discretion and habitual offenders and those with no license plates would be high on the list.

Ordinance 6913. Council Bill 2025-035 (McClure, Hosmer) was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember McGull, Mayor Pro Tem Simpson, Councilmember Hosmer, Councilmember Lee, and Mayor McClure. Nays: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, and Councilmember Hardinger. Absent: Councilmember Carroll. Abstain: None.

7. **RESOLUTIONS.**
8. **EMERGENCY BILLS.**
9. **PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.**
10. **GRANTS.**
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 2025-037 (Carroll)

A general ordinance amending the Fee Schedule for certain City services as provided in the Springfield City Code Section 2-425, by making such adjustments as provided in the attached "Evaluation of Charges for Municipal Services"; and adopting new fees for certain City Services.

Anita Cotter, City Clerk, noted the sponsorship was inadvertently listed as Councilmember Carroll. She added the proposed went through the Finance and Administration Committee, and the sponsorship would be updated to Mayor Pro Tem Simpson, Councilmember Hardinger, Councilmember Horton, and Councilmember Jenson to reflect the Committee members.

Tammy Beeman, Budget Coordinator, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Ms. Beeman noted one-third of fees were evaluated on an annual rotating basis. She further noted the one-third being reviewed this year were Economic Vitality, Planning and Development, Finance, Municipal Court, Public Information Office, and Environmental Services. Ms. Beeman added these fees were being evaluated for the second time using this methodology, and there had been a smoothing of the fees. Ms. Beeman further noted the remaining two-thirds of fees not evaluated would increase by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to keep up with inflation. She added fees were recommended to recover 100 percent of the cost. She added Enterprise Fund Fees could recover cost plus future capital and maintenance needs. Ms. Beeman noted the exceptions were Hazelwood Cemetery fees and some Health fees.

Ms. Beeman noted 83 fees for services were evaluated, there were no new fees recommended to be added, and no fees were recommended to be eliminated. She added five fees were recommended to be reduced, 18 recommended to have no change, and 60 fees were recommended to be increased. Ms. Beeman further noted the recommended fee adjustments would generate approximately \$1.4 million, with \$1.3 million of that in non-general fund revenue. Ms. Beeman added the total proposed revenue generated was \$17.2 million. Ms. Beeman noted the largest portion of additional revenue generated was the changed in tipping fees. She added these would generate an estimated \$1.2 million. Ms. Beeman further noted the development fees were provided to 14 stakeholder groups and reached out to last year. She added all changes would be effective July 1, 2025.

Councilmember Hosmer asked how tipping fees were increased. Ms. Beeman responded it was based upon the plan in place in Environmental Services and was an 8.5 percent increase. He asked if that took future closure costs into consideration and if the cost of relocating was built into the Consolidated Waste Plan. Ms. Beeman responded affirmatively. Councilmember Hosmer expressed his belief it was important to look at how flow could be reduced and how recycling could be encouraged.

Councilmember Jenson thanked Ms. Beeman for the presentation. He thanked staff for follow up on his questions regarding waiving brush fees at the Yard Waste Recycling Center following significant storm events.

Councilmember McGull asked what stakeholder groups were contacted. Ms. Beeman responded the General Developers Association of Contractors, Ozarks Transportation Organization, the Watershed Committee, and others that were on file. She further noted there were no complaints.

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

14.2. Council Bill 2025-038 (Hosmer)

A special ordinance amending the budget of the City of Springfield for Fiscal Year 2024-2025, in the amount of \$782,150, to appropriate unused funds originally budgeted for Police Department salaries to address unfunded Police Department equipment needs.

Paul Williams, Police Chief, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Chief Williams noted the proposed was a request to utilize carryover funds for capital needs in the Police Department. He further noted the carryover funds were from the high number of vacancies in the department. Chief Williams added the funded items would include 15 flock cameras, 45 mobile data terminals for police cars, public safety barriers, a cyber crime forensics computer, special response team explosive panels, rifle-rated ballistic shields, axis panoramic network cameras, a portable target system, physical training mats, a smartboard, office chairs, and a Bearcat armored vehicle.

Councilmember Hosmer expressed his belief it was smart to allow the funds to be used for law enforcement needs.

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. Sarah Barnts wishes to address City Council.

Sarah Barnts, a representative of Springfield Tenants Unite, addressed City Council. Ms. Barnts thanked the City for free parking. She expressed her appreciation for the parks and for Springfield's big, small-town feeling. Ms. Barnts expressed her belief the city's housing solutions would need to grow with the city. Ms. Barnts further expressed her belief right to counsel was a poverty prevention solution. She noted eviction was the leading cause of homelessness and expressed her belief it was difficult to recover from that.

15.2. Alicia Hublou wishes to address City Council.

Alicia Hublou, a representative of Springfield Tenants Unite, addressed City Council. Ms. Hublou expressed her belief all deserve right to counsel. She further expressed her belief counsel helped individuals use the rights they were supposed to have. Ms. Hublou expressed her belief right to counsel would protect all City voters from homelessness.

15.3. Daniel Behlmann wishes to address City Council.

Daniel Behlmann, a representative of Springfield Tenants Unite, addressed City Council. Mr. Behlmann expressed his support for consideration of tenants right to counsel. He noted there were cases of individuals who were evicted due to leaving bad reviews of their landlords. Mr. Behlmann noted only 10 percent of renters manage to bring an attorney to court.

15.4. Rob Ybanez wishes to address City Council.

Rob Ybanez, a representative of Springfield Tenants Unite, addressed City Council. Mr. Ybanez expressed his belief the right to counsel for tenants was important. He noted eviction was the leading cause of homelessness. Mr. Ybanez further noted approximately 2,400 evictions were filed in Springfield each year. He further expressed his belief an eviction made it difficult to be approved for future housing.

16. NEW BUSINESS.

16.1. The Mayor recommends the following appointment to the Public Housing Authority: Karla Edwards with term to expire April 11, 2029. Recommended.

16.2. Refer to the Plans and Policies Committee consideration of the creation of a City Council Internship Program. Referred.

16.3. Refer to the Community Involvement Committee review of a draft Tenants' Right to Counsel Program ordinance. Referred.

17. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

18. MISCELLANEOUS.

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

19.1. Council Bill 2025-039 (Lee)

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to enter into a License Agreement to Use Public Right-of-Way with Hickory Village 55 Plus, LLC, for the purpose of allowing an encroachment onto City rights-of-way for the maintenance of two existing stone monuments, under the same terms and conditions as encroachments are permitted on City rights-of-way under Chapter 98, Article VII of the Springfield City Code.

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

20.1. Council Bill 2025-040 (Hardinger)

A resolution authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to apply for a grant of up to \$50,000 from the Missouri Department of Transportation to fund the salary and travel expenses for City or contract personnel to manage the City of Springfield's Pedestrian Safety Campaign and to pay for local pedestrian safety education.

Resolution 10814. Council Bill 2025-040 (Hardinger) 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.

21. CONSENT AGENDA – SECOND READING BILLS.

22. END OF CONSENT AGENDA.

23. ADJOURN.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson moved to adjourn. Councilmember Lee 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.