

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

February 27, 2025

2:00 p.m.

Springfield Municipal Court, 625 North Benton Avenue

MEMBERS

PRESENT: Matthew Simpson, Chair; Heather Hardinger; Monica Horton; and Brandon Jensen.

MEMBERS

ABSENT: None.

STAFF

PRESENT: Wendy Garrison, Chief Judge of Municipal Court; Kyle O'Dell, Municipal Court Administrator; Collin Quigley, Interim City Manager; Maurice S. Jones, Deputy City Manager; Jordan Paul, City Attorney; Daniel Neal, Senior City Planner; Macaylah Holden, City Clerk Administrative Specialist; Anita Cotter, City Clerk; and Michelle Kaasa, Senior City Clerk Administrative Specialist.

GUESTS: Councilmember Derek Lee.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 2:06 p.m., and roll call was conducted. Present: Heather Hardinger, Monica Horton, Brandon Jensen, and Matthew Simpson. Absent: None.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson read the statement regarding the restrictions on photography during the Finance and Administration Committee meeting due to privacy and security concerns.

Collin Quigley, Interim City Manager, reviewed the agenda and noted there was a need for an improved Municipal Court facility. He added a final report from NFORM Architecture would be provided at the end of May.

Wendy Garrison, Chief Judge of Municipal Court, provided a brief overview of Municipal Court operations. She noted of the 1.5 million cases in the State, half were filed in a municipal court. She further noted there were 27 employees and 8 employees for the Prosecutor's Office. Judge Garrison added there were 2 full-time judges and 2 substitute judges. She explained they had been in the same building for 37 years. She noted Municipal Court heard cases for traffic, bond and administrative hearings, and other violations of City ordinances.

Judge Garrison noted the current challenges for Municipal Court were space, utilizing Show Me Courts, setting dockets, restroom space, storage space, and safety concerns due to crowds.

Councilmember Jenson asked how far out the cases were scheduled. Judge Garrison responded they were currently scheduled for August. She added walk-in court was currently held Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and Tuesday and Thursday from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Judge Garrison further noted night court was held on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. every other month, and there was not enough staff to expand the times.

Councilmember Horton inquired about the top two non-funded budget items. Judge Garrison noted several had been funded, including a probation officer. She added non-funded items included a new building, security, and training.

Judge Garrison led the meeting attendees on a walking tour through the Springfield Municipal Court facility.

Councilmember Horton moved to adjourn. Councilmember Hardinger seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Horton, Jenson, Hardinger, and Simpson. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.