# City of Springfield

## Minutes

## City Council Meeting

**Jeff Schrag, Mayor**

| **Zone Councilmembers** | **General Councilmembers** |
|---|---|
| Monica Horton, Zone 1 | Heather Hardinger, General A |
| Abe McGull, Zone 2 | Craig Hosmer, General B |
| Brandon Jenson, Zone 3 | Callie Carroll, General C |
| Bruce Adib-Yazdi, Zone 4 | Derek Lee, General D |

**September 8, 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, Councilmember Hosmer, Councilmember Hardinger, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Adib-Yazdi, and Mayor Schrag. Absent: None.

## 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

2.1. Approval of Minutes. August 25, 2025, City Council Meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Hardinger moved to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2025, City Council meeting as presented. Councilmember Jenson seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, Councilmember McGull, Councilmember Hosmer, Councilmember Hardinger, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Adib-Yazdi, and Mayor Schrag. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

## 3. FINALIZATION AND APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDAS.

CITIZENS WISHING TO SPEAK TO OR REMOVE ITEMS FROM THE CONSENT AGENDAS MUST DO SO AT THIS TIME.

The Consent Agenda was approved as presented by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, Councilmember McGull, Councilmember Hosmer, Mayor Pro Tem Hardinger, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Adib-Yazdi, and Mayor Schrag. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

## 4. CEREMONIAL MATTERS.

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

David Cameron, City Manager, noted the City of Springfield, along with the Springfield Fire and Police Departments, would host the Crisis Leadership Summit for Preparedness on October 30 at the University Plaza Convention Center. He added the summit featured Harvard University experts in emergency preparedness and disaster response. He further noted senior leaders from across the community were invited to attend this full-day training to gain strategies for navigating crises with clarity and resilience. Mr. Cameron noted registration was $50 and available at springfieldmo.gov.

Mr. Cameron noted Public Works had removed more than 22,400 cubic yards of storm debris since August 11, with Zone 1 substantially complete and cleanup efforts now focused on Zone 3. He further noted residents were reminded to only place organic storm debris at the curb without blocking sidewalks, driveways, or ditches. He added City crews and contractors would continue sweeps across all zones in the coming weeks until cleanup was complete.

Mr. Cameron noted Galloway Street was expected to reopen to two-way traffic in mid-September, as the $6.5 million widening project neared completion. He further noted the project added a center turn lane, roundabouts, sidewalks, a multi-use path, and upgraded stormwater infrastructure to improve safety and connectivity. Mr. Cameron added a short closure of Lone Pine Avenue would follow for final roundabout work before striping was completed.

Mr. Cameron noted Environmental Services was launching two new fall events to promote reuse and recycling: a City-Wide Garage Sale on September 27 and a Reuse Rally on October 4 at Hammons Field. He further noted both events aimed to keep usable items out of the landfill by encouraging residents to sell, donate, or recycle goods. Mr. Cameron added registration, and details on accepted items were available at CleanGreenSGF.com.

Mr. Cameron noted the City would host the second SGF Business Lab at 10:00 a.m. on October 15 at Missouri State's eFactory. He further noted there was a great lineup of panelists offering advice on how to start a small business in Springfield, including City staff and community partners. Mr. Cameron added last year's event filled up quickly, and details could be found on the City's website.

Mr. Cameron noted work had begun at Jenny Lind Apartments, and he would keep City Council updated on the progress as the City performed weekly checks.

Mr. Cameron noted the Missouri State Bears would host Southern Methodist University (SMU) on Saturday. He added the game would start at 2:30 p.m.

Councilmember Horton thanked Mr. Cameron for his report on the completion level of the storm debris cleanup. She thanked Public Works for being responsive to implementing temporary patchwork on the Grant Street Bridge.

## 6. SECOND READING AND FINAL PASSAGE.

Citizens Have Spoken. May Be Voted On.

6.1. Council Bill 2025-186 (Hosmer)

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to accept a grant renewal in the amount of $100,000 from the Missouri Children's Trust Fund for use by the Springfield-Greene County Health Department to continue operating the Family Connects Program to parents of newborns in Greene County, Missouri; to enter into agreements necessary to carry out the grant; and amending the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget in the amount of $100,000 to appropriate the grant funds.

Ordinance 28200. Council Bill 2025-186 (Hosmer) was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, Councilmember McGull, Councilmember Hosmer, Mayor Pro Tem Hardinger, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Adib-Yazdi, and Mayor Schrag. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

6.2. Council Bill 2025-187 (Adib-Yazdi)

A special ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 operating budget of the City of Springfield by increasing both revenue and expenses in the amount of $370,000, for the purpose of appropriating accumulated interest proceeds in the 2020 Level Property Tax Bond I Project fund, for the purpose of funding the Hazelwood Cemetery office and maintenance building project.

Ordinance 28201. Council Bill 2025-187 (Adib-Yazdi) was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, Councilmember McGull, Councilmember Hosmer, Mayor Pro Tem Hardinger, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Adib-Yazdi, and Mayor Schrag. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

6.3. Council Bill 2025-188 (Hardinger)

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to enter into a Joint Funding Agreement for Water Resource Investigations with the United States Department of the Interior in the amount of $71,350 for the purpose of operating and maintaining six streamgages.

Ordinance 28202. Council Bill 2025-188 (Hardinger) was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, Councilmember McGull, Councilmember Hosmer, Mayor Pro Tem Hardinger, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Adib-Yazdi, and Mayor Schrag. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

6.4. Council Bill 2025-190 (Schrag)

A general ordinance suspending enforcement of Sec. 70-36(c) of the City Code, requiring proof of payment of all personal property taxes as a prerequisite of obtaining an occupational license; and referring the same to the Plans and Policies Committee.

Mayor Schrag turned over the chair to Mayor Pro Tem Hardinger and remained at the dais. He noted he wanted to participate in any discussion and was not recusing himself from voting.

Councilmember Hosmer moved to substitute Council Bill 2025-190 (Schrag) with Substitute Council Bill 2025-190. He noted the substitute would eliminate the requirement that the bill be suspended pending Committee review and would provide the City Manager's Office with giving a business one year's leave to have its provisional license granted while the option of their personal property tax issues were sorted out. He expressed his belief this was a reasonable compromise.

Mayor Schrag seconded the motion, and discussion continued.

Councilmember Lee asked the reason for the change. Councilmember Hosmer responded the substitute bill would eliminate the need for suspension. He noted 60 percent of business had not paid their personal property taxes and that this shortchanged parks, the library, schools, and individuals with developmental disabilities. He further noted the bill was previously referred to the Plans and Policies Committee, and he brought it back to City Council as he was allowed to do. Councilmember Hosmer expressed his belief this was a reasonable compromise.

Councilmember Adib-Yazdi expressed his belief that businesses did not have a single source responsibility for these issues. He added there are not instructions for the procedure when a business license was issued. He further expressed his belief clarity for next steps should be given when a license was issued.

The motion to substitute was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, Councilmember McGull, Councilmember Hosmer, Mayor Pro Tem Hardinger, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Adib-Yazdi, and Mayor Schrag. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

Mayor Pro Tem Hardinger noted the public hearing on Substitute Council Bill 2025-190 would be held on September 22.

## 7. RESOLUTIONS.

Citizens May Speak. May Be Voted On.

7.1. Council Bill 2025-194 (Lee)

A resolution authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to apply for up to $500,000 in grant funds from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) Brownfields Job Training Grant program to fund training programs that provide graduates with skills and opportunities to seek and obtain environmental jobs within the community.

Ericka Schmeeckle, Assistant Director of Workforce Development, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Ms. Schmeeckle noted the proposed would allow Workforce Development to apply for up to $500,000 for an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfield's Job Training Grant. She further noted the grant was part of the local Green for Greene program and the purpose would be to fund training initiatives to equip participants with the skills and opportunities to secure environmental jobs. She added the application would not require any matching funding.

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

Resolution 10838. Council Bill 2025-194 (Lee) was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, Councilmember McGull, Councilmember Hosmer, Mayor Pro Tem Hardinger, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Adib-Yazdi, and Mayor Schrag. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

**8. EMERGENCY BILLS.**

**9. PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.**

**10. GRANTS.**

**11. AMENDED BILLS.**

**12. COUNCIL BILLS FOR PUBLIC HEARING.**

Citizens May Speak. Not Anticipated To Be Voted On.

12.1. Council Bill 2025-195 (McGull)

A special ordinance granting Conditional Use Permit No. 483 for the purpose of permitting a restaurant within a R-HD, High-Density Multi-Family Residential District, and the Walnut Street Urban Conservation District No. 1, Area West, generally located at 1027 East Walnut Street. (By: McField LLC; 1027 East Walnut Street; Conditional Use Permit No. 483.)

Justin Crighton, Assistant Director of Planning and Development, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Mr. Crighton noted the proposed would grant renewal of a conditional use permit (CUP) for the former Ebbet's Field restaurant with the intention of reestablishing it. He further noted it was before City Council because the previous CUP had expired after 12 months of inactivity.

Councilmember McGull asked the applicant for their intended opening date. Sydney Davis, the applicant, responded spring of 2026.

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

12.2. Council Bill 2025-196 (Jenson)

A general ordinance amending the Springfield Land Development Code, Section 36-306, 'Official zoning map and rules for interpretation,' by rezoning approximately 3.14 acres of property generally located at 5585 South Robberson Avenue from GR, General Retail District, to Planned Development No. 393; and adopting an updated Official Zoning Map. (By: Springfield Land & Development Co LLC; 5585 South Robberson Avenue; Planned Development No. 393.)

Justin Crighton, Assistant Director of Planning and Development, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Mr. Crighton noted the proposed would allow rezoning of the property in order for it to be used as a multifamily age-restricted development. He added it would be allowed for that use as a standalone use, and it was found to be in compliance with the Comprehensive Plan. He added the density, 24 units per acre, was an appropriate density.

An opportunity was given for citizens to express their views.

Geoff Butler, a representative of the applicant, noted the parcel was a piece of a 40-acre tract that had been in the County. He added it was annexed into the City and zoned general retail. He further noted they had a buyer for the property that was applying for Missouri Housing Development Commission (MHDC) financing, which did not allow commercial on the property. Mr. Butler further noted the owner wanted to provide a planned development that allowed multifamily housing without commercial development. The owner wanted to retain the ability to later sell the property for commercial use if the sale fell through.

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

12.3. Council Bill 2025-197 (Horton)

A general ordinance amending the Springfield Land Development Code, Section 36-306, 'Official zoning map and rules for interpretation,' by rezoning approximately 1.0 acre of property generally located at 2808 North Fort Avenue from R-SF, Single-family residential district to R-TH, Residential townhouse district, with Conditional Overlay District No. 274; establishing Conditional Overlay District No. 274; and adopting an updated Official Zoning Map. (By: Tip Top Homes, LLC; 2808 N. Fort Avenue; Z-14-2025 w/ Conditional Overlay District No. 274.)

Justin Crighton, Assistant Director of Planning and Development, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Mr. Crighton noted the proposed would allow rezoning to Residential Townhouse (RTH) to develop the property into townhomes. He further noted some design guidelines would be established based on the City's affordable housing design guidelines.

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

## 13. FIRST READING BILLS. Requiring One Reading.

Citizens May Speak. May Be Voted On.

13.1. Council Bill 2025-198 (Adib-Yazdi)

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to enter into a Surface Transportation Block Grant and Carbon Reduction Program Supplemental Agreement #2 with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission for the purpose of funding the South Creek Greenway (Fremont to Glenstone) project; amending the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget in the amount of $160,000 to appropriate the additional federal funds for this project; and declaring that this Ordinance qualifies for approval in one reading pursuant to City Charter Section 2.16(25).

Dan Smith, Director of Public Works, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Mr. Smith noted the proposed would allow acceptance of grant funds for a trail design that would run along Sunset Street between Fremont Avenue and Glenstone Avenue. He noted grant funds had previously been accepted for the construction and right-of-way, and as they had gone through the design work and appraisals, a deficit was identified. Mr. Smith added the proposed would allow acceptance of an additional $160,000 in federal funding, to bring the total project cost to just over $900,000, and the City's 20-percent share to approximately $225,000.

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

Councilmember Adib-Yazdi noted the section going to Glenstone Avenue would also continue west to McDaniel Park. He added the section augmented the investment within McDaniel Park for parking improvements. He expressed his appreciation for the updates.

Ordinance 28203. Council Bill 2025-198 (Adib-Yazdi) was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, Councilmember McGull, Councilmember Hosmer, Mayor Pro Tem Hardinger, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Adib-Yazdi, and Mayor Schrag. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

## 14. FIRST READING BILLS. Requiring Two Readings.

Citizens May Speak. Not Anticipated To Be Voted On.

14.1. Council Bill 2025-199 (Lee)

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to enter into an Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement with Ozarks Transportation Organization for the purpose of constructing an extension of the Ward Branch Greenway Trail; amending the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget of the Department of Public Works in the amount of $99,337 for the purpose of funding a 20% match for said project; and authorizing the City Manager to accept donations for the purpose of funding said match.

Dan Smith, Director of Public Works, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Mr. Smith noted the proposed was a trail section that would connect between Independence and Fremont Avenue. He further noted there were multiple components to the trail. He added it was off the right-of-way and the Parks Department would be involved and maintain the trail when completed. Mr. Smith noted the Ozarks Transportation Organization (OTO) would lead the design and the agreement would bring them in to oversee the construction and inspection. He further noted CoxHealth pledged funds for a local match, and there were other medical mile stakeholders. He added OTO approved just under $400,000 in federal funding for the construction. Mr. Smith noted CoxHealth and Burrell indicated willingness to donate easements for the trail. He added it also authorized the City to accept donations and transfer the local match to OTO to match the federal funding.

Councilmember Lee noted the project was one of five that City Council voted to design approximately a year ago. He thanked City Council for supporting the projects at that time, and thanked the partners mentioned and the various medical mile stakeholders on the construction match. He further noted this was taking City funds and working with stakeholders in the community to provide quality of place. Councilmember Lee thanked CoxHealth and Burrell for donating the right-of-way, and medical mile partners for contributing to the local match.

Councilmember Lee asked Mr. Smith to discuss the other four projects. Mr. Smith responded the South Creek Greenway Trail design was finished and funding for construction was approved. He added the Fassnight Creek Greenway Trail from the Skate Park to Fort Avenue was in the design phase, Wilson's Creek Greenway Trail and the Jordan Creek Greenway Trail were pulled into the RAISE grant under the Ungap the Map project. He further noted this would be a wonderful project to construct additional trails on the west side of town.

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

14.2. Council Bill 2025-200 (Lee)

A special ordinance authorizing the City of Springfield, Missouri, through the City Manager, or designee, to enter into Schedule of Equipment No. 2 which will become a part of its existing Master Equipment Lease Purchase Agreement, the proceeds of which will be used to pay the costs of acquiring and installing equipment for the City’s Parks Department and immutable backup storage hardware and software for use by the City, and to do all things necessary to carry out the lease-purchase transaction, including the execution of certain documents in connection therewith; and amending the budget of the City for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 in the amount of $1,143,000.

Jody Vernon, Assistant Director of Finance and Comptroller, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Ms. Vernon noted the proposed would allow the Parks Department and Information Systems Department to purchase needed equipment through a low-interest lease with US Bank. She further noted this was a financing tool that had been utilized for several years and was a five-year financing plan with quarterly payments. Ms. Vernon noted the principal amount was $1,143,000 with a 4.04 percent interest rate. She added the City would own the equipment at the end of the lease. Ms. Vernon noted equipment covered by the lease included immutable backup storage, hardware and software for the Information Systems Department, and items for Rutledge Wilson Farm Park, the fitness centers, the Ice Park, Jordan Valley Park operations, and the golf courses.

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

14.3. Council Bill 2025-201 (Hosmer)

A general ordinance amending the Springfield City Code, Chapter 2, “Administration,” Article VI, “Finances,” Division 4, “Police Officers’ and Fire Fighters’ Retirement System,” Section 2-441 (Definitions) and Section 2-444 (Board of trustees established; membership; election of members).

Tony Kelley, Administrative Director for the Police Officers’ and Fire Fighters’ Retirement System, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Mr. Kelley noted the proposed would allow three changes to the code. He noted the first would change the way active participant trustees could be elected. He further noted there were approximately 24 active participants in the system. Mr. Kelley further noted the change would allow reinstated employees to serve as active member trustees. He added reinstatements would only be allowed if there were no active members that chose to be a trustee. Mr. Kelley noted the second change would allow citizen trustees to serve more consecutive terms as they moved toward the end of active members. Mr. Kelley further noted the fund and plan would transition and continuity with the board was key to move forward in vision and mission. Mr. Kelley noted the third change was to the definition of the medical group. He further noted if an applicant applied for disability pension, the code required a medical doctor, not including a regular psychologist. He added the change would allow use of psychologists that were not medical doctors but were licensed in the State of Missouri.

Councilmember Hosmer asked how someone would represent interests such as the Police Department or Fire Department if they were not employees. Mr. Kelley responded they would have to be reinstated to qualify. He added they would be allowed to serve as a retiree trustee or active trustee but not both.

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

14.4. Council Bill 2025-202 (Carroll)

A general ordinance amending the Springfield City Code, Section 2-91, known as the “Merit System Rules and Regulations,” by amending Merit Rules 1, 2.4, 10.1, 12.4, 16.3, 17.1, 18.1, 20.2, 24.5, and 26.7.

Darla Morrison, Director of Human Resources, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Ms. Morrison noted the proposed would allow ten merit rule changes. She further noted the changes were designed to improve processes, gain efficiencies, and provide better options for present-day workforce needs. Ms. Morrison highlighted some of the changes. She noted in Rule 1, the definition of promotions, demotions, and transfers would be updated and clarified. Ms. Morrison added Rule 18 allowed for the employee to transfer to the new salary schedule that would provide the closest to the current pay rate without taking a decrease when at all possible. She added the exception would be if the employee was topped out at their pay rate. Ms. Morrison noted that Rule 16.3 and 17.1 dealing with the compensation plan would have a direct change. She thanked Councilmember Jenson for his support on the issue. Ms. Morrison noted the change would allow salary grade changes for a position to be updated administratively, and the records would be maintained by Human Resources.

Councilmember Jenson thanked Ms. Morrison for bringing this forward and expressed his belief people were the most important part of the organization. He asked what Rule 12.4 was attempting to address in regard to disciplinary action. Ms. Morrison responded when dealing with disciplinary actions, for example a misrepresentation on a timesheet, there was no specific rule that addressed that. She added this change would address specific items. Councilmember Jenson asked if there was opportunity for appeal if the employee did not agree. Ms. Morrison responded affirmatively. She added the Merit Rules required due process for employees. Ms. Morrison thanked Assistant City Attorney Lance Roskens for his work on the merit rule changes, specifically some of the compensation changes.

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

14.5. Council Bill 2025-203 (Carroll)

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to accept grant funding from the Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development's Office of Apprenticeship & Work-Based Learning in the amount of $50,000, to be utilized for the creation and support of pre-registered apprenticeship programs; enter into necessary agreements to carry out the purpose of the grant funds; and amend the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget of the Department of Economic Vitality and Workforce Development in the amount of $50,000.

Ericka Schmeeckle, Assistant Director of Workforce Development, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Ms. Schmeeckle noted the proposed would allow acceptance of $50,000 in grant funds from the Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development Office of Apprenticeship and Work-based Learning to be used to create and support pre-apprenticeship programs. She added this would allow staff to support a minimum of 23 participants in the education and cybersecurity sectors.

An opportunity was given for citizens to express their views.

Neil Brady, a representative of Bartlett West Engineering, spoke in support of the proposed. Mr. Brady thanked City Council for their ongoing commitment to workforce development. He expressed his belief workforce development was a crucial part of sustaining the city and the investment in apprenticeship programs provided career pathways for citizens.

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

14.6. Council Bill 2025-204 (Hosmer)

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to accept grant funding from the Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development in the amount of $460,068, to be utilized for temporary employment opportunities focused on clean-up and recovery in Webster County; enter into necessary agreements to carry out the purpose of the grant funds; and amend the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget of the Department of Economic Vitality and Workforce Development in the amount of $460,068.

Ericka Schmeeckle, Assistant Director of Workforce Development, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Ms. Schmeeckle noted the proposed would allow acceptance of funding from the Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development as part of a Department of Labor and National Emergency grant. She further noted the funds would support on-the-job training for participants to work on cleanup and recovery projects in Webster County, resulting from storms that occurred from March 14 to March 15, 2025, and March 30 through April 8, 2025.

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

14.7. Council Bill 2025-208 (Hardinger)
A general ordinance approving City Utilities' Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget for its Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2026.

Louise Knauer, Board of Public Utilities President, provided a brief introduction to the proposed. Ms. Knauer noted the Board of Public Utilities appreciated the recent opportunity to present and discuss the budget with City Council at the study session on August 14. She further noted the budget had a focus on resiliency of infrastructure and advancing the quality of life in the community through the ongoing investment in critical assets. Ms. Knauer noted funding to purchase and install a battery storage energy system at James River Power Station and the Blackman Water Treatment Plant, and installation of three new 50-megawatt gas turbines at McCartney Generating Station were included.

Ms. Knauer noted the budget also included a strong focus on infrastructure with a continued emphasis on natural gas and water main renewals, electric pole replacement, and vegetation management, as well as infrastructure improvements such as completion of the transmission line from Republic. She further noted the board felt it was a responsible budget.

Councilmember Adib-Yazdi thanked Ms. Knauer for the August 14 session and expressed his appreciation for the information provided.

Councilmember Jenson expressed his belief that City Utilities lived up to its foundational strategies of responsibility, dependability, and excellence, particularly in services for water, electric, and natural gas. He asked if City Utilities provided the best possible transit system within the resource-constrained environment. Ms. Knauer responded affirmatively, and noted the transit system was operated at a deficit. Councilmember Jenson expressed his belief that City Utilities did the best job possible with the resources available and noted that could be true while recognizing the needs of the community were not being met. He further noted meeting with employers and employment service providers who noted clients were limited in their job search or had to provide private transportation due to the transit system not meeting their needs. Ms. Knauer responded they had looked at the issue and were in the process of reviving conversations. Councilmember Jenson noted $10.6 million was spent on transit, but only $4.6 million was funded from local revenues separate from fares. He asked where the $4.6 million came from. Ms. Knauer responded each of the other operating units helped subsidize the transit unit.

Councilmember Jenson noted the medium-term plan would require an increase of nearly $4 million in local revenues with the long-term implementation requiring nearly $15 million in additional local revenue spending. He asked if City Utilities' budget was able to absorb the costs. Ms. Knauer responded those questions would require more study and input from the board.

Councilmember Jenson asked if there were alternative sources of revenue that could be generated to fund enhanced transit operations. Ms. Knauer responded they were always looking for more opportunities, and noted they had acquired their first EV bus with federal transit funds to help support that. Councilmember Jenson asked if it was correct to characterize that City Utilities derived its powers and responsibilities from the City Charter, and indirectly from City Council through their appointments. Ms. Knauer responded affirmatively, noting City Council approved the City Utilities' budget, rates, and board members. Councilmember Jenson asked if an increase in local spending by either $4 million or $15 million to realize the full potential would make sense from an economic perspective. Ms. Knauer responded it sounded good in concept.

Councilmember McGull asked when the last time was that a comprehensive transit study was completed. Ms. Knauer responded she would look to Connect SGF as the most recent example with only the first phase being implemented.

Councilmember Adib-Yazdi noted he could not access the link to the study. Ms. Knauer responded they would provide the information.

Amy Derdall, Chief Financial and Supply Chain Officer for City Utilities, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Ms. Derdall noted City Utilities had the lowest rates compared to 14 benchmark cities, with an average annual bill of $190.34. Ms. Derdall further noted that to do the comparison, the average usage for customers was taken and plugged into other cities' rates.

Ms. Derdall noted that the overall receipt projection for 2026 was $693 million, compared to $942 million in 2025. She added 2025 was significantly higher because they had the lease financing for power supply assets that were presently being constructed for $303 million. Once those funds were deposited into a construction fund, they could be used over time to reimburse finance of City Utilities. She added the most significant change between those years was the expenditures for capital plans. Ms. Derdall noted they were projecting to spend $167 million in 2025 and $91 million in 2026, including non-utility. She further noted this also included sales tax remittances to the State as well as Payment In Lieu of Taxes to the City. Ms. Derdall noted the dispersement authority they were requesting was $858,957,795, which did include $55 million for business volatility. She added these dollars could not be utilized without further Board action. Ms. Derdall noted a future power supply line for $33 million was included for 2025, and the capital expenditures were included in the first line for the total expenditures in functional categories of almost $804 million.

Ms. Derdall reviewed the community dividends, noting they included cash remitted to the City of Springfield, public transit services in the amount of $9.8 million, and other community services that included infrastructure with right-of-way and $2.2 million outside the city limits but within their service territory.

Councilmember Jenson asked Ms. Derdall if there was anything else she wanted to provide specifically in response to internal diversification of revenues. Ms. Derdall responded their core business was serving the customers for electric, natural gas, water, and transit. She added transit could not be funded without the other. She noted they look at how they could grow their overall footprint for retail customers. Ms. Derdall further noted they also had opportunities within the wholesale market as part of the Southwest Power Pool. Councilmember Jenson asked if the City Utilities budget could absorb $4 million or $14 million of additional cost annually without reductions in service to the three other areas. Ms. Derdall responded they could not. She added tariffs were bringing in additional costs that were not planned in those dollars. Ms. Derdall noted the transit deficit spread out over current residential electric customers would equal approximately $115 per customer, or $350 for the long-range plan. She added with increase size in the transit program, there would be increased infrastructure and facility costs.

Councilmember Adib Yazdi asked if the $115 and $350 were per month or year. Ms. Derdall responded per year. Councilmember Adib-Yazdi confirmed the cost comparisons were rate comparisons, not a home cost comparison. Ms. Derdall responded affirmatively. Councilmember Adib-Yazdi asked how benchmark cities were selected. Darla Morrison, Director of Human Resources, responded benchmark cities were selected for being similar in size, government structure, and used across a wide variety of platforms. She added cost of living was a factor as well.

Councilmember Hosmer asked if renewables for City Utilities were still at about 40 percent. Ms. Derdall responded 39 percent was projected. Councilmember Hosmer asked if City Utilities still worked with low-income individuals to make their property more efficient. Ms. Derdall responded affirmatively. Councilmember Hosmer asked if the program to help City buildings be more energy efficient was still in existence. Councilmember Hosmer asked if the effectiveness of the programs could be measured. Ms. Derdall responded their energy efficiency area would work with the City to determine the energy efficiency before and after improvements were made.

Councilmember McGull if regional transportation initiatives could be reviewed at the next City Council and City Utilities planning session.

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

14.8. Council Bill 2025-209 (Carroll)

A general ordinance authorizing revisions to electric rates charged by City Utilities 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 electric rate adjustments were necessary to support debt service payments for power supply projects currently under construction, which included three new 50-megawatt combustion turbines at the McCartney Generating Station and two battery energy storage projects. He further noted this included a 31-megawatt battery project at the James River Power Station and a 5-megawatt battery project near Blackman Water Treatment Plant. He noted they would help meet the Southwest Power Pool capacity requirements, improve reliability on the system, and provide additional energy cost stability for customers.

Mr. Beshears noted City Utilities issued a $283.5 million lease financing to fund the purchase and construction of these resources. He added this was a 22-year borrowing with two years of capitalized interest, which allowed City Utilities to begin making debt service payments after the resources go into operation. He further noted annual payments would be approximately $21.5 million. Mr. Beshears noted two of a series of three electric rate adjustments were implemented that were approved in 2023, with an average increase of 3.9 percent. He added prior to this, the most recent series of electric rate adjustments was effective in October 2016. Mr. Beshears noted that to meet debt service requirements, they were proposing a series of two annual base rate adjustments averaging 3 percent overall effective April 2027, and 3.6 percent in April 2028. He further noted the rates would generate revenues to cover the annual debt service for the financing after accounting for Payment In Lieu Of Taxes to the City. He added the typical monthly residential bill impact was estimated to be approximately $3.92. He further noted the rates were designed in accordance with the Board of Public Utility Rate Policy.

Mr. Beshears noted City Utility electric customers paid approximately 26 percent less than the national average, and 8 percent less that the state average.

Councilmember Horton asked what percent of City Utilities' budget went to debt service. Ms. Derdall responded 8 percent.

Councilmember Hosmer noted the average residential customer would have a 3 percent rate increase in 2027 and a 3.6 percent increase in 2028. He asked if this was the overall system average. Mr. Beshears responded the percentages varied by rate class. He added there were four or five different rate classes for commercial and industrial. He added the increases for non-residential classes were generally 4 percent to 6.8 percent. Mr. Beshears noted the increases were done in a way to not make drastic changes to rates and have very large bill impacts for one class. Councilmember Hosmer asked if there was a peer cities review of the commercial industrial rates. Mr. Beshears responded there was not for commercial industrial rates.

Councilmember Adib-Yazdi noted the Southwest Power Pool's requirements for battery storage and asked if that was new for City Utilities. Mr. Beshears responded they did a pilot project years ago on a smaller scale, and batteries this large would be new for City Utilities.

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

14.9. Council Bill 2025-205 (Adib-Yazdi)

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 Preliminary Plat of Chimney Rock Subdivision - Revised, generally located at 3040 South Arcadia Avenue, upon the applicant filing and recording a final plat that substantially conforms to the preliminary plat; authorizing the City Clerk to sign the final plat upon compliance with all the terms of this Ordinance; and repealing Special Ordinance 28100. (By: JCRS Development, LLC; 3040 South Arcadia Avenue; Preliminary Plat of Chimney Rock Subdivision – Revised.)

Justin Crighton, Assistant Director of Planning and Development, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Mr. Crighton noted the proposed was the revised preliminary plat of Chimney Rock Subdivision. He added it was the same parcel, and 8.69 acres of currently undeveloped land zoned as genera retail with Conditional Overlay District 151, and single-family residential. Mr. Crighton further noted the main changes from the original plat were a reduction in the overall number of lots from 40 to 29 and removal of the connection between Carson Avenue and Arcadia Avenue. He added the revised lot layout left the largest lot at a little over .4 acres and the smallest at .15 acres.

Councilmember Adib-Yazdi noted the engineering team noted Mimosa Street could comfortably manage significantly more traffic. He further noted a cul-de-sac or hammerhead were clear ways to turn around and met the standards of Public Works. Councilmember Adib-Yazdi expressed his belief the neighborhood could use pedestrian access to amenities on the corner of Battlefield Street and Lone Pine.

Councilmember Hosmer asked the reason for the change. Mr. Crighton responded the developer submitted a revised plat. He expressed his belief they made an effort to address some of the concerns of the neighbors. Councilmember Hosmer asked if the Police Department and Fire Department had both signed off on the hammerhead turnaround. Mr. Crighton responded affirmatively and noted it met Public Works standards. He added it was a common type of emergency turnaround. Steve Childers, Director of Planning and Development, noted a cul-de-sac and hammerhead were equally usable by Police or the Fire Department. He added there were various developers looking at the project, and this was the most suitable for negotiations. He further noted the homes were going to be sold. Mr. Childers noted the hammerhead would take up less space. Councilmember Hosmer asked if there were other hammerheads in the City. Mr. Childers responded affirmatively.

An opportunity was given for citizens to express their views.

Sonja Shaw, a resident in Chimney Hills Place, noted the revised plat was an improvement and further noted she had concerns. Ms. Shaw expressed her concerns for safety regarding a blind curve to the entrance, and a concern over a possible sinkhole.

Mary Jane Grinstead expressed her concerns with the hammerhead and safety concerns with traffic in the area and narrow roads.

Tammy Fulk thanked City Council for their service. She expressed her concerns with the development.

Frank Blohm expressed his concern with what association would maintain the common areas. He further expressed his concern with line of sight and safety issues.

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

Councilmember Hosmer asked if access to Mimosa Street was decided by the developer or the City. Mr. Childers responded developers were required to follow design guidelines, which the minimum distance requirement fell within. Councilmember Hosmer asked if there was a site distance that was more feasible. Mr. Childers responded he did not believe so. He added the common area was intended to be a stonewater detention basin and was not sure if the trees would be left exactly as they were. Councilmember Hosmer asked how the hammerhead would be used if there were two trucks at the same time. Mr. Childers expressed his belief the hammerhead would be large enough to accommodate. He added the developer had two options, a cul-de-sac or a hammerhead. Mr. Childers noted a cul-de-sac would have eliminated more lots and expressed his belief the developer may have been trying to preserve those lots. Councilmember Hosmer asked for the locations of hammerheads in the City. Mr. Childers responded the information would be provided.

Councilmember Adib-Yazdi asked if a representative of the applicant was available for questions. Dan Shannon, a representative of OWN Engineering, came forward to answer questions. Councilmember Adib-Yazdi noted Lot 9, the furthest northeast property, attached to the Pollard property. He further noted there was an easement that allowed the Pollard property to have a driveway to get to the public right-of-way. Mr. Shannon responded affirmatively. Councilmember Adib-Yazdi asked why the area was treated in that manner versus simply extending the right-of-way so that private individual could attach to it. Mr. Shannon responded it was because vehicles would need a place to turn around, creating another roundabout or hammerhead situation, and because there could not be a dead end. Councilmember Adib-Yazdi asked Mr. Shannon if his team would consider rear yard setbacks along lots 1 through 8. He expressed his belief increasing the rear yard setback to provide more separation between the new and existing houses would be a good measure.

Councilmember Adib-Yazdi expressed his concern that there was no long-term access to Arcadia Avenue, but there was a temporary driveway easement that was vacated in the final plat. He expressed his belief it would be important to place some conditions on the construction portion of the project, so there would be no construction access in the temporary easement during construction. He asked Mr. Shannon to relay this to his team. Mr. Shannon responded affirmatively.

Councilmember Lee asked for staff to explain sight distance versus intersection distance. Mr. Smith responded stopping sight distance was the time it would take to stop to avoid an object in the road. He noted intersection sight distance was the distance required to safely look out and pull out onto a street at an intersection. He further noted from an engineering standpoint; they felt the distance was adequate. Councilmember Lee noted common turnaround options included cul-de-sac, hammerhead, and T turnaround options. Councilmember Lee asked if all the property would be single-family residential and a similar use. Mr. Childers responded affirmatively.

Councilmember Lee asked for an explanation of a property owners association in light of the common area. Mr. Childers responded when a subdivision was created, it was required there be a homeowner's association that would be governed by covenants and restrictions and filed with the Secretary of State. He added the developer would be in charge of that until they had disposed of typically 98 to 100 percent of the lots. Mr. Childers noted they would ensure it had been registered with the Secretary of State prior to signing the final plat. Councilmember Lee noted one function of the homeowner's association was to collect their own money to maintain stormwater infrastructure, such as detention basins, instead of the City. Mr. Childers responded affirmatively.

## 15. PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES AND COMMUNICATIONS.

15.1. Marie Faucher wishes to address City Council. Withdrew.

## 16. NEW BUSINESS.

16.1. Refer to the Plans and Policies Committee consideration of requirement for certain land use items to include a fiscal impact study. Referred.

16.2. Refer to the Community Involvement Committee the review and Recommendation of 2026 Legislative Priorities for City Council Consideration. Referred.

16.3. Refer to the Plans and Policies Committee consideration and review of General Ordinance 6918 to determine if lane filtering should be allowed. Referred.

16.4. The Mayor recommends the following appointments to Tree City USA: Ben Tegeler and Sean McKiernan with terms to expire December 1, 2027. Recommended.

16.5. The Mayor recommends the following appointment to Tree City USA: Anna Dowell with term to expire December 1, 2028.Recommended.

16.6. The Mayor recommends the following reappointment to Tree City USA: Nancy Evans with term to expire December 1, 2027. Recommended.

16.7. The Mayor recommends the following appointment to the Land Clearance for Redevelopment Authority: Jacob Saylor with term to expire March 1, 2029. Recommended.

16.8. The Mayor recommends the following reappointment to the Land Clearance for Redevelopment Authority: Ben Edmondson with term to expire March 1, 2027. Recommended.

**17. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.**

**18. MISCELLANEOUS.**

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

19.1. Council Bill 2025-206 (Horton)
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 Preliminary Plat of Fort Amor, generally located at 2808 North Fort 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. (By: Tip Top Homes, LLC; 2808 North Fort Avenue; Preliminary Plat of Fort Amor.)

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

20.1. Council Bill 2025-207 (Hardinger)
A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to accept a Section 402 State and Community Highway Safety Grant in the amount of $22,600 from the Missouri Department of Transportation to continue supporting the City's shareable version of the City's current pedestrian safety education program, 'SafeAcross'; amending the budget of the Department of Public Works for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 in the amount of $22,600 upon award of the grant; and declaring that this Ordinance qualifies as a one-reading ordinance pursuant to Section 2.16(25) of the City Charter.

Ordinance 28204. Council Bill 2025-207 (Hardinger) was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, Councilmember McGull, Councilmember Hosmer, Mayor Pro Tem Hardinger, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Adib-Yazdi, and Mayor Schrag. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

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

21.1. Confirm the following appointment to the Building Trades Examination & Certification Board: Garen Gilmore with term to expire December 1, 2026. Confirmed.

21.2. Confirm the following appointment to the University of Missouri Extension Council: Chad Courtney with term to expire February 28, 2027. Confirmed.

21.3. Council Bill 2025-191 (Lee)

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to accept funds in the amount of $45,000 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 2025-2026 budget in the amount of $45,000 to appropriate the grant funds.

Ordinance 28205. Council Bill 2025-191 (Lee) was by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmember Jenson, Councilmember Horton, Councilmember McGull, Councilmember Hosmer, Mayor Pro Tem Hardinger, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Adib-Yazdi, and Mayor Schrag. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

**22. END OF CONSENT AGENDA.**

**23. ADJOURN.**

Councilmember Jenson 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 Hardinger, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Adib-Yazdi, and Mayor Schrag. Nays: Councilmember Hosmer. Absent: None. Abstain: None.