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P. Hrngs. _____
Pgs. 5
Filed: 05-01-18

Sponsored by: Ferguson

First Reading: _____

Second Reading: _____

COUNCIL BILL 2018- 118

SPECIAL ORDINANCE _____

AN ORDINANCE

1 ACCEPTING the recommendation of the Hotel-Motel Tax Reallocation Committee to
2 reallocate funds previously awarded by Resolution 10294 to the
3 Commercial Club of Springfield for the rehabilitation of the Jefferson
4 Avenue Footbridge and authorizing said funds to be used for said
5 rehabilitation.
6 _____
7

8 WHEREAS, in 1998, the City's Hotel-Motel tax rate was increased from two
9 percent to four-and-one-half percent and a portion of the increased revenue was
10 authorized to be used to make capital grants to nonprofit organizations for the purpose
11 of building or renovating facilities to increase tourism, recreation, educational
12 opportunities, or boost the local economy; and
13

14 WHEREAS, by passage of Special Ordinance 26127 on September 24, 2012,
15 City Council established the Hotel-Motel Tax Reallocation Committee for the purpose of
16 receiving and reviewing applications to recommend future allocations of tax funding to
17 nonprofits; and
18

19 WHEREAS, Resolution 10294 accepted the Hotel-Motel Reallocation
20 Committee's recommendations for partial distribution of Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Hotel-
21 Motel Tax funds; and
22

23 WHEREAS, the Committee recommended allocating \$15,000.00 for Talking
24 Telescopes to be installed on the Jefferson Avenue Footbridge; and
25

26 WHEREAS, prior to execution of the contract with Commercial Club of
27 Springfield for said allocation, the Jefferson Avenue Footbridge was closed; and
28

29 WHEREAS, the Commercial Club has requested that the \$15,000.00 previously
30 awarded for the Talking Telescopes be reallocated to the rehabilitation of the Jefferson
31 Avenue Footbridge; and
32

33 WHEREAS, the Hotel-Motel Tax Reallocation Committee met on April 11, 2018,
34 and recommended that the funds be reallocated to the rehabilitation of the Jefferson
35 Avenue Footbridge.
36

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
38 SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI, as follows, that:
39

40 Section 1 – City Council hereby accepts the subsequent recommendation of the
41 Hotel-Motel Tax Reallocation Committee and hereby rescinds its award of \$15,000.00
42 to the Commercial Club of Springfield for the Talking Telescopes project, originally
43 awarded by passage of Resolution 10294.
44

45 Section 2 – City Council hereby authorizes that the funds previously awarded to
46 the Commercial Club of Springfield, by passage of Resolution 10294, be instead utilized
47 by the Department of Public Works for the rehabilitation of the Jefferson Avenue
48 Footbridge, with said funds being credited as a contribution by the Commercial Club of
49 Springfield to their private fundraising goal of providing \$50,000.00 for the rehabilitation
50 of the Jefferson Avenue Footbridge.
51

52 Section 3 – This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after
53 passage.
54

55 Passed at meeting: _____
56

57
58 _____
59 Mayor
60

61
62 Attest: _____, City Clerk
63

64
65 Filed as Ordinance: _____
66

67
68 Approved as to form: Richard T. Weder, Assistant City Attorney
69

70
71 Approved for Council action: Greg Burt, City Manager

EXPLANATION TO COUNCIL BILL 2018-118

FILED: 05-01-18

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Planning and Development

PURPOSE: To accept the recommendation of the Hotel-Motel Tax Reallocation Committee to reallocate funds previously allocated by Special Ordinance 10294 to the Commercial Club of Springfield for the renovation of the Jefferson Avenue Footbridge.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: In 1998, the City Hotel-Motel tax rate was increased from two (2) percent to four-and-one-half (4.5) percent. A portion of the revenue from the increase was used to make capital grants to nonprofit organizations for the purpose of building or renovating facilities in order to increase tourism, recreation, educational opportunities or boost the local economy. The ballot language specifically called out Dickerson Park Zoo, Gillioz Theater, Landers Theatre, Discovery Center and Wonders of Wildlife ("WOW"). In 2012, the City's agreement with WOW was terminated at WOW's request, and the funds allocated to WOW became available for use by other entities that qualify under the terms set forth in the February 3, 1998, ballot.

Special Ordinance 26127 allocated 40 percent of the WOW tax allocation to the City's General Fund for the purpose of reducing the General Fund subsidy of debt related to Jordan Valley Park projects funded as part of the 1998, Hotel-Motel Tax referendum and for Mediacom Ice Park operating shortfalls. The Ordinance also established the Hotel-Motel Tax Reallocation Committee ("Committee"). The purpose of the Committee is to make recommendations to City Council for the reallocation of the remaining sixty (60) percent of the WOW tax allocation.

REMARKS: Resolution 10294 accepted the Committee's recommendations for partial distribution of Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Hotel-Motel Taxes. The Committee recommended allocating \$15,000, for Talking Telescopes to be installed on the Jefferson Avenue Footbridge. Prior to execution of the contract with the Commercial Club of Springfield for the Talking Telescopes, the Jefferson Avenue Footbridge was closed due to safety concerns.

The Commercial Club has requested that the \$15,000 previously approved for Talking Telescopes be reallocated to the renovation of the Jefferson Avenue Footbridge. The Commercial Club also requested that the \$15,000 reallocation of Hotel-Motel funds be counted toward their commitment to raise \$50,000 in private funds for the Footbridge renovation. The Committee met on April 11, 2018, and recommended that the funds be reallocated. (see the attached "Exhibit A").

If approved, these funds will be placed in the Public Works Department budget for the renovation of the Jefferson Avenue Footbridge. Staff and the Hotel-Motel Tax Reallocation Committee recommend approval.

Submitted and Recommended by:



Mary Lilly Smith, Director

Approved by:



Greg Burris, City Manager

Exhibit A

April 12, 2018

Mayor Ken McClure
and Members of City Council
840 Boonville Ave.
Springfield, MO 65802

RE: **Hotel/Motel Tax Reallocation Committee 2018 Funding Recommendations**

Dear Mayor McClure and Members of City Council,

As the chair of the Hotel/Motel Tax Reallocation Committee, I present the Hotel/Motel Tax Reallocation Committee's funding recommendations for 2018. This committee includes representatives from the City, the Springfield lodging industry, the Sports Commission, the Convention & Visitors Bureau, and the Springfield Regional Arts Council. Councilwoman Fisk also serves as a non-voting Council liaison.

This committee was appointed to make recommendations on how to use 60 percent of the hotel-motel tax funds that became available when Wonders of Wildlife requested termination of its allocated funds.

The Committee established a process to accept and evaluate funding requests based on the criteria in the special ordinance that reallocated the WOW funding and the 1998 ballot language approved by voters. The first awards were made in 2013, with a total of \$768,220 awarded in four years.

This year the committee has two recommendations.

1. To reallocate Commercial Club's 2016 funding of \$15,000 from Talking Telescopes on the Jefferson Avenue Footbridge to the efforts to renovate the bridge.
2. To postpone the decision of how to utilize the current year's funds until August 2018 to allow issues in the community to progress and guide the committee's decisions.

Thank you for your consideration in reviewing the committee's recommendations.

Sincerely,



Leslie Forrester, Chair, Springfield Regional Arts Council
Brad Danzak, Springfield Hotel & Lodging Association
Bill Hobbs, Sports Commission
Tracy Kimberlin, Convention & Visitors Bureau
Mary Lilly Smith, City Manager's Office
Jan Fisk (ex-officio), Springfield City Council