

**February 8, 2021
Springfield, Missouri**

The City Council met in regular session February 8, 2021 in the Council Chambers at Historic City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ken McClure. A moment of silence was observed.

Roll Call Present. Mike Schilling, Phyllis Ferguson, Jan Fisk*, Craig Hosmer, Richard Ollis*, Andrew Lear, Abe McGull, Matthew Simpson, and Ken McClure. Absent. None.

*Member attending via videoconference.

Minutes The minutes of January 25, 2021 City Council meeting and January 26, 2021 Special City Council meeting were approved as presented.

Consent Agenda The Consent Agenda was approved as presented.

CEREMONIAL MATTERS

City Manager Report Jason Gage, City Manager, noted City staff is working on providing responses to questions posed at the last meeting. Mr. Gage further noted Paul Williams, Police Chief, has provided information regarding the Police Department's sworn police officer strength as of January 31, 2021.

Mr. Gage noted the City is partnering with the community to celebrate Black History Month. He further noted a couple of virtual events were held this past Friday and Saturday, which are available for viewing on the City's website. Mr. Gage added Dr. LaGarrett King, who is an Associate Professor at the University of Missouri-Columbia, presented a workshop entitled Rethinking Black History Month. He noted Timmons Hall premiered a play called The Assignment, which featured Emmy-award-winner Dr. Carmalitta Williams. Mr. Gage noted additional educational materials will be added throughout the month of February on the City's Facebook page regarding Black History Month.

Mr. Gage commended the Springfield-Greene County Health Department, Office of Emergency Management, Jordan Valley Community Health Center, Missouri National Guard, State of Missouri, Ozarks Technical Community College, and all of the many volunteers who assisted with this past Friday's COVID-19 vaccination clinic at the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds. He also recognized Mercy and CoxHealth who help consolidate their waiting lists to help prioritize high risk individuals for receiving their vaccine per the COVID-19 vaccination plan.

Mr. Gage noted City staff is assisting Houseal Lavigne, who is the Forward SGF Consultants, with a subarea plan for the downtown area. He further noted a Downtown Advisory Team has conducted their first meeting to discuss a next level vision and strategic plan to guide implementation. Mr. Gage noted public input will be needed in the upcoming months.

Mr. Gage noted the City will be hosting a virtual public event on February 9, 2021 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. regarding the Grant Avenue Parkway corridor. He further noted a virtual neighborhood meeting would also be held on February 23, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. to learn more about future development and land use for the Grant Avenue Parkway corridor.

Mr. Gage noted the Fire Department recently installed six smoke detectors specially designed with a high intensity flashing strobe for deaf and hard of hearing individuals in case of a fire. He commended the Lennie Cloud Fund for the Hearing Impaired, which is managed by the Community Foundation of the Ozarks, for providing the specialty smoke alarms through grant funds.

Mayor McClure encouraged those interested to please attend the upcoming virtual public events regarding the Grant Avenue Parkway corridor.

Public Health Director Report

Clay Goddard, Springfield-Greene County Health Director, gave a COVID-19 updated. Mr. Goddard noted COVID-19 positive cases continue to decline, which is a positive sign as individuals receive vaccines. He further noted the 7-day rolling average regarding positive cases is approximately 85 cases a day as opposed to two weeks ago at 114 cases a day.

Mr. Goddard noted we are still experiencing a COVID-19 pandemic. He further noted the first variant United Kingdom strain of COVID-19 was detected in Marion County, Missouri over the past weekend, which is very contagious. Mr. Goddard encouraged everyone to remain vigilant by practicing social distancing at least 6 feet apart, handwashing and sanitizing, and wearing a mask until additional vaccines become available for further immunizing individuals. He noted COVID-19 vaccines are coming slowly to the region, which will take some time for individuals to be immunized. Mr. Goddard asked everyone for their patience. He further noted there are still some unknowns about the vaccine, such as whether immunized individuals can still spread COVID-19 to close contacts.

Mr. Goddard also recognized the Springfield-Greene County Health Department, Office of Emergency Management, Jordan Valley Community Health Center, Missouri National Guard, State of Missouri, Ozarks Technical Community College, and all of the many volunteers, other departments, entities and organizations, as well as Mercy and CoxHealth, for their efforts regarding Friday's COVID-19 vaccination clinic held at the Ozarks Empire Fairgrounds. He also recognized the Jordan Valley Health Center for conducting a shot clinic at their new facility located at Kansas Expressway and Grand held this past Friday. Mr. Goddard noted approximately 600 individuals received their second COVID-19 vaccine. He further noted CoxHealth and Mercy continue to receive COVID-19 vaccines to help assist with immunization efforts.

Mr. Goddard noted the Health Department launched efforts to encourage the community through the Finish Strong pledge to have at least a 70% commit to staying vigilant and pledging to get the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available. He further noted the Finish Strong pledge, as well as additional information, is available via health.springfieldmo.gov/finishstrong or if anyone would like additional information about receiving COVID-19 updates, to please contact the Health Department at 417-874-1211. Mr. Goddard added currently approximately 3.3% of Greene County residents have received both vaccine dosages. He noted for those individuals within a high-risk category, they should contact their healthcare provider regarding the COVID-19 vaccine for availability.

Mr. Goddard noted Mayor Pro Tem Ferguson previously inquired if pain relievers were permissible to utilize before receiving the COVID-19 vaccines. He further noted based upon discussions with physicians, there could be some immune response to individuals. Mr. Goddard added taking pain relievers, such as ibuprofen or acetaminophen, should be avoided if possible before receiving the COVID-19 vaccines. He noted individuals should consult with their physician for guidance about taking any medications prior to being immunized.

Mayor McClure expressed his appreciation to Mr. Goddard and the Health Department, as well as everyone who participated in last Friday's vaccine clinics. He asked for clarification regarding the variant United Kingdom strain recently detected in Marion County, Missouri. Mr. Goddard noted this variant strain is concerning due to it being more infectious and contagious. He encouraged everyone to get immunized with the COVID-19 vaccines to help prevent the spread. Mr. Goddard reiterated everyone should remain vigilant by practicing social distancing at least 6 feet apart, handwashing and sanitizing, and wearing a mask until additional vaccines become available for further immunizing individuals.

Councilman Simpson also expressed his appreciation to Mr. Goddard and the Health Department, as well as everyone who participated in last Friday's vaccine clinics. He asked for clarification whether available vaccines would become more readily available for immunizing individuals in the next few weeks. Mr. Goddard noted more COVID-19 vaccines are slowly arriving within the community for distribution. He expressed his belief by March or April more vaccine supplies will become available for distribution. Councilman Simpson asked for clarification regarding the state's recent vaccine navigator dashboard, and if it would be integrated with the Health Department's dashboard information. Mr. Goddard noted the state has released a vaccine navigator dashboard. He further noted the Health Department would need to discuss this with other local healthcare providers. Mr. Goddard added the Health Department would continue to currently maintain a local vaccine dashboard. Councilman Simpson asked for clarification regarding the contact information for businesses or entities who need information about vaccinating their employees. Mr. Goddard noted business or entities should contact the Health Department at 417-874-1211 for COVID-19 information.

Councilman McGull asked for clarification whether individuals should delay other immunizations, such as shingles vaccines, until they have received their COVID-19 vaccinations. Mr. Goddard noted he would need to consult with the Dr. Nancy Yoon, Health Department’s Chief Medical Officer, and would provide information to the City Council.

Councilman Hosmer asked for clarification regarding the percentage of individuals in Greene County who have been currently been immunized with the COVID-19 vaccines. Mr. Goddard reiterated approximately 3.3% of Greene County residents have received their two shots for immunization. He further noted approximately 7.2% of Greene County residents have received one shot for immunization. Mr. Goddard noted there are far more individuals who are eligible to receive the vaccine, who have not yet been immunized. Councilman Hosmer asked for clarification regarding the eligibility age for receiving the vaccine. Mr. Goddard noted individuals should be at least 18 years or older currently to be immunized with the COVID-19 vaccines.

Mayor McClure thanked Mr. Gage and Mr. Goddard for tonight’s updates.

The following bills appeared on the agenda under Second Reading.

**Amending
Building Trades
Examination and
Certification
Board**

Sponsor: Ollis. Amended Council Bill 2021-011.

A general ordinance amending Springfield City Code, Chapter 36, ‘Land Development Code,’ Article IV. – ‘Building Trades Examination and Certification Board,’ Division 6. – ‘Fees and Licenses,’ Sections 36-544(b) and 36-545(a) to shorten the renewal period for trade certifications, registrations, and licenses from six months to three months.

Mayor McClure noted Council Bill 2021-011 was amended on January 25, 2021 and is being held over for public comment on the amendment only.

An opportunity was given for citizens to express their views on the amendment only. There being no speakers, the public hearing was declared closed.

Amended Council Bill 2021-011. General Ordinance 6637 was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, McGull, Simpson, Schilling, Ferguson, Fisk, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

**Bid for the
Sidewalk
Connection to
Galloway Trail
Project –
Greenwood Street
to Lone Pine
Avenue**

Sponsor: Simpson. Amended Council Bill 2021-018.

A special ordinance approving the plans and specifications for the Sidewalk Connection to Galloway Trail project – Greenwood Street to Lone Pine Avenue; accepting the bid of D&E Plumbing & Heating, LLC, in the amount of \$163,051.90 for said project; and authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to enter into a contract with such bidder.

Mayor McClure noted Council Bill 2021-018 was amended on January 25, 2021 and is being held over for public comment on the amendment only.

An opportunity was given for citizens to express their views on the amendment only. There being no speakers, the public hearing was declared closed.

Amended Council Bill 2021-018. Special Ordinance 27463 was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Ollis, Lear, McGull, Simpson, Schilling, Ferguson, Fisk, Hosmer, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

**Amending Bylaws
– Airport Board**

Sponsor: Fisk. Council Bill 2021-027.

A special ordinance amending the bylaws of the Airport Board of the City of Springfield, Missouri.

Council Bill 2021-027. Special Ordinance 27464 was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Lear, McGull, Simpson, Schilling, Ferguson, Fisk, Hosmer, Ollis, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

**Amending Salary
Ordinance –
Building
Development
Services**

Sponsor: Lear. Council Bill 2021-028.

A general ordinance amending Chapter 2, Section 2-92 of the Springfield City Code, known as the ‘Salary Ordinance,’ to add three full-time-equivalent positions in the Department of Building Development Services; and amending the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget of the Department of Building Development Services to reallocate funds for the addition of said positions and adjust the number of authorized employee positions.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferguson expressed her support for the proposed. She noted Dwayne Shmel, Building Development Services Director, attended a driving tour with her last week to review building code issues, such as nuisances, in Zone 1. Mayor Pro Tem Ferguson further noted the proposed is a first step in assisting City staff with enforcing the City’s codes regulations, especially nuisance properties.

Council Bill 2021-028. General Ordinance 6638 was approved by the following vote: Ayes: McGull, Simpson, Schilling, Ferguson, Fisk, Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

**Salary
Negotiations
Settlement with
IAFF Local 152**

Sponsor: Ollis. Council Bill 2021-029.

A special ordinance amending the General Fund budget for the City of Springfield, Missouri, for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, by appropriating a portion of the Fiscal Year 2018-2020 carryover funds and increasing expenses in the amount of \$441,071 for costs associated with the settlement of Fiscal Year 2019-2020 salary negotiations with the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 152 bargaining unit.

Council Bill 2021-029. Special Ordinance 27465 was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Simpson, Schilling, Ferguson, Fisk, Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, McGull, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

The following bill appeared on the agenda under Resolutions.

**2021 Capital
Improvements
Program**

Sponsor: Ollis. Council Bill 2021-030.

A resolution adopting the 2021 Capital Improvements Program for the purpose of providing a schedule of public improvements for 2021 through 2026. (Planning and Zoning Commission and Staff recommend approval.)

Randall Whitman, Planning and Development Principal Planner, provided an overview of the proposed. Mr. Whitman noted the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) outlines the City's capital expenditures for the upcoming year and those expenditures that are forecasted for the subsequent five years. He further noted for a project to be eligible as a CIP, a project should have a value of at least \$100,000.00 and must have a useful life of at least 6 years. Mr. Whitman added projects must also have a funding source identified, such as from sales taxes, level property taxes, or grant funds, etc. He noted the proposed includes 128 projects or programs with an estimated cost of approximately \$114,047,705.00 for recommended funding in 2021. Mr. Whitman further noted there are 157 projects or programs that are recommended to be undertaken between the years 2022 to 2026 with an estimated cost of approximately \$456,474,311.00. He added not all projects included within the CIP are guaranteed for implementation. Mr. Whitman noted regarding completed CIP projects for 2020, there were 29 projects or programs with a cost of approximately \$83,742,673.00.

Mayor McClure asked for clarification whether all the projects listed in the CIP would be implemented. Mr. Whitman reiterated not all projects listed in the CIP are guaranteed for implementation depending upon the City's annual needs and priorities, which are updated or modified as needed.

Councilman Simpson asked for clarification whether the ¼ CIP sales tax renewal for a 20-year period approved by voters in 2019 has helped City staff with better long-term planning for CIP projects. Mr. Whitman noted City staff from various departments conduct meeting discussions to keep updated on the CIP projects, as well as for long-term planning needs.

Councilman Ollis asked for clarification whether City staff reviews City Council priorities, such as quality of place for walkability, when determining the CIP project list. Mr. Whitman noted there is information contained within the proposed regarding walkability, bicycle, and safety improvements. He reiterated City staff from various departments conducts meeting discussions to keep updated on the CIP projects, which can be updated or modified as needed depending upon the City's annual needs and priorities. Councilman Ollis expressed his belief the City should be more proactive and competitive regarding CIP projects, since the City is below what other communities are doing, such as Kansas City and St. Louis. He noted he would like the topic of the City's CIP to be a future luncheon topic for further review.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferguson expressed her appreciation regarding the Kearney Street and West-By-Pass improvements. She asked for clarification regarding the proposed construction start date for the upcoming Fire Station No. 13 on College Street. Collin Quigley, Co-Deputy City Manager, noted the proposed start date for construction of the upcoming Fire Station No. 13 on College Street in approximately 2023. Mayor Pro Tem Ferguson asked for clarification regarding the stormwater improvements on Grant Street near Norton Road. Mr. Quigley noted a detailed presentation would be conducted at an upcoming City Council Lunch, which would include a review and discussion about various CIP project updates with the City Council.

An opportunity was given for citizens to express their views. There being no speakers, the public hearing was declared closed.

Council Bill 2021-030. Resolution 10549 was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Schilling, Ferguson, Fisk, Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, McGull, Simpson, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

EMERGENCY BILLS

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

GRANTS

AMENDED BILLS

The following bills appeared on the agenda under Council Bills for Public Hearing.

Rezoning at 2832 East Sunshine Street

Sponsor: Simpson. Council Bill 2021-031.

A general ordinance amending the Springfield Land Development Code, Section 36-306, 'Official zoning map and rules for interpretation,' by rezoning approximately 1.27 acres of property generally located at 2832 East Sunshine Street from R-SF, Single-Family Residential, to O-1, Office District; establishing Conditional Overlay District No. 194; and adopting an updated Official Zoning Map. (Staff and Planning and Zoning Commission both recommend approval.) (By: 2832 E. Sunshine Street, LLC; 2832 East Sunshine Street; Z-2-2021 w/COD #194.)

Mary Lilly Smith, Planning and Development Director, provided an overview of the proposed. Ms. Smith noted the proposed O-1 Office District and Conditional Overlay District (COD) are adequate for mitigating potential impacts to the adjoining properties. She further noted the O-1 District requires a 45-degree bulk plane measured from the boundary of any Single-Family Residential (R-SF) zoning to the south. Ms. Smith added the subject property would qualify for the shallow lot exemption, which would reduce the bufferyard; however, the COD prohibits the use of this exemption and the standard bufferyard type C will be required along the south property line adjacent to the R-SF zoning.

Councilman Simpson asked for clarification whether the proposed would have any impact upon the restrictive covenants currently in place for the property. Ms. Smith noted the proposed does not impact the restrictive covenants; however, the restrictive covenants are a private matter between the property owners.

Councilman Lear asked for clarification whether all the trees were cut down on the property in question. Ms. Smith answered affirmatively and noted the trees were cut down and the tree stumps remain on the property in question. She further noted the property owner was not required by the City to obtain a land disturbance permit before the trees were cut. Ms. Smith added with the proposed COD, a standard bufferyard type C with landscaping will be required along the property line adjacent to the R-SF zoning. She noted a type C bufferyard requires a minimum of 15 feet wide with 1 canopy tree, 2 understory trees, 2 evergreen trees and 10 shrubs per 100 linear feet. Ms. Smith added landscaping will also be required in the parking lot area. Councilman Lear asked for clarification regarding the property requirement for a land disturbance permit. Ms. Smith expressed her belief a land disturbance permit is required for property over 1 acre; however, this would not apply if trees are only cut as opposed to being bulldozed down. Councilman Lear expressed his belief the issues of cutting trees within the city limits and land disturbance permits should be reviewed with City staff. Ms. Smith suggested a tree preservation ordinance may be needed.

Councilman Hosmer asked for clarification regarding the restrictive covenant for the property in question. Ms. Smith expressed she do not know what the restrictive covenants are for the property in question. She reiterated the restrictive covenants are a private matter between the property owners, which the City does not enforce. Councilman Hosmer asked for clarification regarding the trees being cut as opposed to being bulldozed down. Ms. Smith reiterated since the trees were cut as opposed to being bulldozed, a land disturbance permit was not required. She noted the City does not have a tree preservation ordinance, but one could be discussed if City Council would like to do so. Councilman Hosmer asked for clarification if other jurisdictions have tree preservation ordinances. Ms. Smith noted City staff would compile information for City Council's review. Councilman Hosmer expressed his support for reviewing a possible tree preservation ordinance.

An opportunity was given for citizens to express their views. There being no speakers, the public hearing was declared closed.

The following bills appeared on the agenda under First Reading Bills.

**Special Obligation
Bonds Series 2021
– Sewerage System**

Sponsor: Lear. Council Bill 2021-032.

A special ordinance authorizing the issuance of not to exceed \$15,010,000 principal amount of Special Obligation Bonds (State of Missouri – Direct Loan Program) Series 2021 of the City of Springfield, Missouri, for the purpose of extending and improving the City's sewerage system; amending the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget of the City in the amount of \$15,010,000; prescribing the form and details of the bonds and the agreements made by the City to facilitate and protect their payment; and prescribing other related matters; and declaring an emergency.

Ron Petering, Public Works Assistant Director, provided an overview of the proposed. Mr. Petering noted the City has been awarded a State Revolving Fund loan from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. He further noted the loan will help provide the City with a source of low-interest funds to complete several projects that were identified in the Overflow Control Plan, which was approved by City Council per Special Ordinance 26494 on December 15, 2014. Mr. Petering added the loan will be repaid through the City's collection of sewer rate fees. He noted the projects to be completed with these funds will include the Group 5 Public Sewer Rehabilitation Project, which was previously approved by the City Council, and future projects, such as Municipal grouting. Mr. Petering further noted these projects will enhance the City's wastewater collection system to further minimize capacity-related sewer overflows that occur due to heavy rains.

David Holtmann, Finance Director, was also available to respond to any questions posed by the City Council.

An opportunity was given for citizens to express their views. There being no speakers, the public hearing was declared closed.

**Preliminary
Funding
Agreement with
West Sunshine
Development,
LLC.**

Sponsor: Schilling. Council Bill 2021-033.

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to execute a Preliminary Funding Agreement between the City of Springfield, Missouri, and West Sunshine Development, LLC; and amending the budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 in the amount of \$50,000 for the purpose of funding the preparation and review of a redevelopment plan and redevelopment agreement in accordance with the provisions of the Real Property Tax Increment Allocation Redevelopment Act.

Sarah Kerner, Economic Development Director, provided an overview of the proposed. Ms. Kerner noted the purpose is for the applicant's deposit of funds to cover the cost of preparing legal documents associated with the City's economic development incentives, including tax increment financing (TIF). She further noted a preliminary funding agreement establishes a mechanism for developers to deposit funds with the City to pay legal fees and hiring consultants for a project, and for replenishing that fund as fees are paid. Ms. Kerner added approval for a funding agreement does not approve the establishment of a TIF or any other incentives. She noted the preliminary funding agreement requires the developers to deposit \$15,000.00 with the City and the account will be replenished as needed to retain a \$15,000.00 balance. Ms. Kerner further added the budget adjustment for \$50,000.00 is intended to allow for the periodic replenishment of the preliminary funding agreement account balance. She reiterated no incentives are currently being requested or approved.

Councilman Schilling asked for clarification regarding the size or acreage of the property in question. Ms. Kerner noted the property in question consists of approximately twenty-six acres, which is generally located at 5505 West Sunshine Street.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferguson asked for clarification whether the property in question is located within the City limits. Ms. Kerner noted the property in question would require annexation into the City limits.

An opportunity was given for citizens to express their views. There being no speakers, the public hearing was declared closed.

**Fee Schedule-
Coronavirus
Testing
Processing Fee**

Sponsor: Hosmer. Council Bill 2021-034.

A general ordinance adopting a new fee and amending the Fee Schedule for certain City services as provided in the Springfield City Code, by establishing a Coronavirus Test Processing Fee.

Teresa Allen, Finance Budget Coordinator, provided an overview of the proposed. Ms. Allen noted the proposed was not included within the recent Fee Schedule and apologized for the oversight. She further noted the proposed is for processing coronavirus tests for several other counties within the Local Public Health Agencies area, as well as Ozarks Healthcare in West Plains. Ms. Allen added it does not include the costs of the test kits. She noted if the Health Department provides the test kits, the cost per kit is \$28.00 in addition to the \$25.00 processing fee. Ms. Allen further noted the fee would become effective upon passage until no longer needed.

An opportunity was given for citizens to express their views. There being no speakers, the public hearing was declared closed.

**Springfield R-12 –
School Crossing
Guard Program**

Sponsor: Fisk. Council Bill 2021-035.

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to enter into Modification No. 1 to Contract # 2020-1061 between the City of Springfield and the School District of Springfield R-12 modifying the shared costs of the third-party vendor which operates the school crossing guard program inside the city limits of Springfield.

Collin Quigley, Co-Deputy City Manager, provided an overview of the proposed. Mr. Quigley noted there has been an agreement with the School District of Springfield R-12 since 2014 regarding the shared costs of providing crossing guards near schools within the city limits to address safe travel to and from school for children. He further noted the proposed is to amend the agreement to reflect the increased service costs of a third-party vendor for the crossing guard program. Mr. Quigley added this year a new vendor is operating the crossing guard program.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferguson asked for clarification whether any police officers are serving as crossing guards at any intersections within the city limits during the school year. Mr. Quigley noted there are 28 crossing guard locations within the city limits. He further noted City staff is currently covering 4 of the 28 crossing guard locations, 3 by Public Works employees and 1 by a traffic safety officer. Mr. Quigley noted recruiting for the crossing guard program has been a challenge for the new third-party vendor due to COVID-19, which is why the modification agreement is necessary.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferguson expressed her belief with the current decrease in police officers, she supports the crossing guard program being conducted by a third-party vendor to free-up police officers for law enforcement duties.

An opportunity was given for citizens to express their views. There being no speakers, the public hearing was declared closed.

**Carryover Funds –
Laboratory
Testing Costs of
Sexual Assault
Forensic Evidence
Kits**

Sponsor: Hosmer, McClure, Fisk, Ferguson, Schilling, and McGull. Council Bill 2021-036.

A special ordinance amending the General Fund budget for the City of Springfield, Missouri, for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, by appropriating a portion of the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 carryover funds and increasing expenses in the amount of \$120,000 for laboratory testing costs of Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence kits.

Tad Peters, Police Major, provided an overview of the proposed. Mr. Peters noted the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative is a nationwide undertaking funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance from the United States Department of Justice that began in 2015. He further noted the Police Department had initially identified 231 sexual assault forensic kits that needed to be tested. Mr. Peters added the Police utilized a combination of departmental and initiative grant funds to submit 112 kits for testing, which left a backlog of 119 kits remaining. He noted in October 2020, the Missouri Attorney General's Office announced they received an additional \$2 million in grant funds to help expedite the testing of backlogged test kits statewide. Mr. Peters further noted a portion of the 119 kits may have been tested through these grant funds, but not all would be able to receive testing. He added the proposed would provide funding from carryover funds that would allow for testing of all 119 kits, which costs approximately \$1,000.00 per kit.

Councilman Hosmer asked for clarification regarding the number of sexual assaults that occur or get reported daily inside the city limits. Mr. Peters noted on average at least 1 sexual assault occurs daily within the city limits. He confirmed per statistics only approximately 1/3 of sexual assault crimes get reported to the police. Councilman Hosmer asked for clarification whether the kits for testing would have DNA evidence available to enter in a national data base to possibly help solve other crimes. Mr. Peters answered affirmatively and noted the DNA evidence would be available to other law enforcement agencies nationwide. Councilman Hosmer asked for clarification whether sexual assault offenders are often repeat offenders. Mr. Peters answered affirmatively. Councilman Hosmer expressed his support for the proposed.

Councilman Lear asked for clarification regarding the amount of time it would take for these 119 kits to be tested. He also asked for clarification whether the state would reimburse the City for some of the cost of proceeding with testing the backlogged 119 kits. Mr. Peters noted if the proposed is approved, a contract would be drafted with a lab for testing these kits. He further noted since the City would have their own direct contract with a lab versus waiting for the state to test, the amount of time will be less for proceeding with testing the kits. Mr. Peters expressed he is unable to currently provide a timeline regarding the testing of the 119 kits. Jason Gage, City

Manager, noted the City is not anticipating being reimbursed by the state for any of the backlog of the remaining 119 kits for the City proceeding with testing them, but would inquire.

Councilman McGull expressed his appreciation for the proposed. He expressed his belief having the backlog of the remaining 119 kits tested is important. Councilman McGull asked for clarification regarding the amount of vacancies within the Police Department pertaining to providing public safety services in the community. Mr. Peters noted there are several vacant positions at the Police Department, which are currently being absorbed by other police employees until those are filled. He further noted the Police Department is trying to make sure the patrol units are staffed to respond to calls within the community. Councilman McGull expressed his belief the number of vacant positions for police officers needs to be reduced possibly by one-half within the next year. He asked for Police staff to work with the City Manager's Office in trying to fill vacant police officer positions. Mr. Gage noted City staff will continue to work on the issue of City vacancies, especially for the Police Department. He further noted staffing Police personnel was recently included in City Council's 2021 Legislative Priorities.

Councilman Simpson expressed his agreement with Councilman McGull about additional Police staff being needed to address the issue of public safety within the community. He asked for clarification whether a private lab could be contracted to get the sexual assault forensic evidence kits tested in a timely manner to prevent any future backlogs. Mr. Peters noted the Highway Patrol's Crime Lab currently has a significant backlog for analyzing and testing kits, which are prioritized based upon the type of case. He further noted it may take several months or even up to a year for a kit to be tested depending upon their availability. Mr. Peters added if a private lab is needed for contracting to test future kits to prevent a backlog, additional funding would be needed. He noted the proposed is only funding for testing the backlog of the remaining 119 kits.

Councilman Hosmer asked for clarification regarding the amount of cases the Police Department currently has and is DNA evidence utilized for prosecution. Mr. Peters noted most cases that are related to sexual assault crimes, DNA evidence is mainly utilized for prosecution. Councilman Hosmer expressed his belief that DNA evidence should be mandated for all felony crimes. Mr. Peters noted the state currently only mandates certain felony crimes for DNA evidence collection for the national database. Councilman Hosmer asked for clarification whether DNA evidence helps solve crime. Mr. Peters expressed his belief the more DNA evidence available, the better for researching and helping to solve crimes. He noted DNA evidence is an identifier, much like fingerprints, for solving crimes.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferguson expressed her support for the proposed. She asked for clarification regarding the amount of pending sexual assault kits needing to be tested for currently active cases. Mayor Pro Tem Ferguson also asked for clarification regarding the length of time it takes for Police to receive the test results back of the kits for currently active cases. Mr. Peters noted for a currently active case, it takes approximately 6 months for the Police Department to receive the test results back for a kit. He further noted he does not currently know how many kits are pending for

testing regarding currently active cases. Mr. Peters reiterated the proposed is only for carry over funding for the backlog of 119 kits remaining for testing.

An opportunity was given for citizens to express their views.

Janice Thompson Gerke spoke in support of the proposed. Ms. Thompson Gerke noted she served as a member of the City's Sexual Assault Task Force. She expressed her belief it is important to have the backlog of the 119 remaining kits tested as a priority for the victims.

Councilman Simpson expressed his appreciation to Ms. Thompson Gerke for serving as a member of the City's Sexual Assault Task Force and for her advocacy.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferguson also expressed her appreciation to Ms. Thompson Gerke for serving as a member of the City's Sexual Assault Task Force and for her advocacy.

There being no additional speakers, the public hearing was declared closed.

PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES, AND COMMUNICATIONS

Robert Anderson did not appear to address City Council.

Collene Buelow did not appear to address City Council.

Lisa Meeks addressed the issues of discrimination and COVID-19. Ms. Meeks expressed her opinion she is being discriminated by various stores within the community for her inability to wear a face covering due to health conditions. She further expressed she does not feel she is being represented by the City Council for her medical conditions as a local citizen.

Gerald Keim addressed the issue of COVID-19. Mr. Keim expressed his opinion the City is not in a state of civil emergency regarding COVID-19. He further expressed his belief the City should not be mandating the issue of face coverings. Mr. Keim noted he does not have a health or medical background. He expressed he understands why there are seatbelt laws but does not understand the logic for wearing face coverings to help prevent COVID-19.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Ollis expressed his belief the City's building codes should be reviewed. He further expressed his belief City staff should work with stakeholders, such as the Springfield Area Home Builders Association (SAHBA), within the community to review the City's building code regulations and establish an updated timeline for possible implementation. Councilman Ollis noted the Plans and Policies Committee, which he serves as Chairman, previously reviewed the City's building codes. He further noted he supports the Plans and Policies Committee reviewing any possible updates and revisions to the City's building code regulations if needed.

Jason Gage, City Manager, noted City staff is currently under the City's building code ordinances, which were adopted by City Council on November 18, 2019. He further noted when these ordinances were approved, City staff was directed to begin on February 1, 2021 soliciting discussions about possible amendments with stakeholders, which also includes a possible finalized version pertaining to energy efficiency updates to the City's residential building code no later than June 30, 2021. Mr. Gage added a decision regarding the City's building code for any possible future amendments should also be reviewed for City Council's consideration. He noted an effective date for implementation for any possible amendments to the City's building code was set to be effective by January 1, 2022. Mr. Gage further noted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, City staff will be unable to meet this timeline and asked City Council to possibly consider an updated timeline for City staff.

Councilman Ollis asked for clarification whether City staff has compiled data collection information for home construction about energy efficiency and the City's building codes for City Council's review. Mr. Gage noted he knows permit data is being collected but does not know the extent type. He further noted it may be also helpful for City staff to possibly collect data from other outlying jurisdictions about their permits for City Council's review, since those jurisdictions seem to be growing. Mr. Gage noted he would check the issue of data collection regarding the City's building codes with City staff for City Council's review. He further noted the Building Development Services Department is currently transitioning with a new director, Dwayne Shmel.

Councilman McGull asked for clarification whether the timeline should be revised for City staff to solicit discussions about possible amendments to the City's building codes regulations with stakeholders. Mr. Gage noted City staff would like to propose an updated timeline to have additional time available for soliciting discussions with stakeholders, such as the SAHBA. He further noted City staff could propose an updated timeline for City Council's review at the next City Council meeting in two weeks.

Councilman Hosmer expressed his opinion the issue of energy efficiency is important, and there should be data information available. He expressed his support for the current timeline to be implemented as opposed to being updated.

Mayor McClure expressed his belief more information is needed, as well as an updated timeline for soliciting discussions about possible amendments to the City's building code, including the issue of possible energy efficiency requirements for the City's residential building code.

Councilman Lear expressed his belief he would consider reviewing an updated timeline for possible consideration but would like to observe the current timeline as much as possible.

Mr. Gage reiterated City staff would compile information about an updated timeline within the next two weeks for City Council's review.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MISCELLANEOUS

The following bills appeared on the agenda under Consent Agenda First Reading Bills.

**Preliminary Plat of
Kansas at Grand
Phase II - 1720
West Grand Street**

Sponsor: Schilling. Council Bill 2021-037.

A special ordinance authorizing the Director of Planning and Development to accept the dedication of public streets and easements to the City of Springfield, as shown on the Preliminary Plat of Kansas at Grand Phase II, generally located at 1720 West Grand Street, 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. (Staff recommends that City Council accept the public streets and easements.) (By: College of the Ozarks; 1720 West Grand Street; Preliminary Plat at Grand Phase 2.)

**Preliminary Plat of
Mercy Fremont
Acres - 4431 South
Fremont Avenue**

Sponsor: Simpson. Council Bill 2021-038.

A special ordinance authorizing the Director of Planning and Development to accept the dedication of public streets and easements to the City of Springfield, as shown on the Preliminary Plat of Mercy Fremont Acres, generally located at 4431 South Fremont 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. (Staff recommends that City Council accept the public streets and easements.) (By: Mercy Health Springfield Communities; 4431 South Fremont Avenue; Preliminary Plat of Mercy Fremont Acres.)

CONSENT AGENDA ONE READING BILLS

CONSENT AGENDA SECOND READING BILLS

The City Manager confirms the following appointment to the Building Trades Examination & Certification Board: Christopher Straw, to replace James Scott, with a term to expire December 1, 2023.

The City Manager confirms the following reappointments to the Building Trades Examination & Certification Board: Chad Drake with term to expire December 1, 2023; Garen Gilmore with term to expire December 1, 2023; Lonney Smith with term to expire December 1, 2022; and, Terry Speake with term to expire December 1, 2022.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA.

Motion to Adjourn Councilman Simpson moved to Adjourn. Councilman McGull seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote. Ayes: Ferguson, Fisk, Ollis, Lear, McGull, Simpson, Schilling, and McClure. Nays: Hosmer. Absent: None. Abstain: None. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:23 p.m.



Anita J. Cotter, CMC/MRCC
City Clerk

Prepared by
Anita Baker