

**March 7, 2022**  
**Springfield, Missouri**

The City Council met in regular session March 7, 2022, in the Council Chambers at Historic City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ken McClure. Mayor McClure acknowledged the situation in Ukraine and all impacted. A moment of silence was observed.

**Roll Call** Present: Mike Schilling, Matthew Simpson, Craig Hosmer, Richard Ollis, Andrew Lear, Heather Hardinger, Abe McGull, and Ken McClure. Absent: None. Vacant Seat: Zone 1.

**Minutes** The minutes of the February 22, 2022, City Council Meeting were approved as presented.

**Consent Agenda** The consent agenda was approved as presented.

**CEREMONIAL MATTERS.**

Marlon Graves was sworn in for the Police Civilian Review Board.

**City Manager Report** Jason Gage, City Manager, provided an update on the City Council Zone 1 Vacancy. Mr. Gage noted those wishing to serve on City Council can now apply for the Zone 1 seat through the City Clerk’s Office during normal business hours (8 a.m. – 5 p.m.) until 5 p.m. on March 11.

Mr. Gage noted the Springfield Fire Department defeated the Springfield Police Department 10-3 in the third annual charity hockey game in front of a sell-out crowd at Jordan Valley Ice Park and the teams raised \$7,300 for the Greene County 100 Club. Mr. Gage further noted the Springfield Police Department team led the annual “Polar Plunge” last Saturday to raise money for Special Olympics. The event had approximately 200 volunteers from all over the community and raised almost \$75,000.

Mr. Gage noted Fire Chief David Pennington was one of 29 participants in the Homeland Security Executive Leaders Program who graduated at a February 3<sup>rd</sup> ceremony at the Center for Homeland Defense and Security, Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. He further noted the program provides a unique educational opportunity for senior-level homeland security/public safety leaders who are at the forefront of the nation’s homeland security mission.

Mr. Gage provided an update on the Springfield Art Museum. Mr. Gage noted the Springfield Art Museum received a \$5 million lead gift for its 2028 Campaign from The Sunderland Foundation of Overland Park, Kansas, and with this gift, the Museum has raised nearly \$9 million to date toward the \$25 million campaign.

Mayor McClure expressed his congratulations to the Art Museum.

## **Police Chief Report**

Paul Williams, Police Chief, noted there are currently 25 recruits in the Police Academy and three recruits in the lateral academy. Six participants are approved for the August class, and an additional 24 have signed up for testing. Chief Williams added the department had seven retirements and one resignation in February. The Police Department currently has 50 vacancies for police officers and 17 vacancies for records clerks.

Chief Williams provided an update on the Springfield Police Department (SPD) Spring 2022 Crime report. The report compares crimes in 2021 to 2020. He noted overall reported crime was down 7%, property crimes were down 11%, and crimes against persons increased 3.5%. Chief Williams further noted motor vehicle theft, vehicle parts theft, and vandalism increased and efforts will be made to decrease these crimes. Chief Williams noted aggravated assault and weapons violations increased. Chief Williams added a short video will be released every two weeks in effort to facilitate citizen engagement, for awareness and prevention.

Chief Williams reported there were six municipal arrests last week, and the average number of municipal prisoners is approximately fifteen per week. He noted there have been 45 arrests for municipal warrants; 69 warrants were served, and 169 warrants have been resolved.

Councilman McGull expressed his appreciation for efforts the SPD has made to eliminate vacancies in the department. He asked if there is a limit on lateral hires to the police force. Chief Williams responded the goal is to have 3 lateral hires, however there is no limit.

Councilman Ollis asked if the fifty vacancies include the current academy class. Chief Williams responded the recruits are included in department numbers, leaving the department 75 officers short in the field. Mr. Ollis complimented Chief Williams on the plan to rehire retired officers and on accomplishments of the Warrant Task Force.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson asked if Chief Williams anticipates any of the seven February retirees to be utilize the rehire program. Chief Williams responded he does anticipate some or all of the retirees will apply.

Councilman Hosmer asked if action can be taken to further incentivize officers and non-sworn staff to stay with the department. Chief Williams responded the plan in place does allow incentives for officers to stay. Chief Williams noted the plan will be revisited to determine if anything additional can be done to increase retention. Chief Williams further noted starting pay for non-sworn staff was increased, and the hiring timeline was decreased.

Councilman McGull asked for an update on the nationwide recruiting campaign. Chief Williams noted feedback has not yet been reviewed for this campaign.

**The following bills appeared on the agenda under Second Reading Bills.**

**Southwest  
Missouri Council  
of Governments:  
loan packaging  
and processing**

Sponsor: Simpson. Amended Council Bill 2022-043.

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to enter into a contract with the Southwest Missouri Council of Governments to provide loan packaging and processing.

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

Amended Council Bill 2022-043. Special Ordinance 27661 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Vacant Seat: Zone 1.

**Brody Corners Tax  
Increment  
Financing Plan**

Sponsor: Simpson. Council Bill 2022-052.

A special ordinance approving the Brody Corners Tax Increment Financing Plan, establishing a redevelopment area, designating the redevelopment area as a blighted area, making other required findings for the redevelopment plan, designating a developer of record for the redevelopment plan, approving a redevelopment agreement with the developer; and directing staff to implement the redevelopment plan.

Councilman Schilling noted there is a revised plat for review at the next Planning and Zoning Commission meeting and asked how that affects the proposed bill. Susan Istenes, Director of Planning and Development, responded the plat in question will only be reviewed by Planning and Zoning Commission for consideration and approval. The plat in question will not be presented to City Council.

Council Bill 2022-052. Special Ordinance 27662 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: Hosmer. Vacant Seat: Zone 1.

**Redevelopment  
Project for the  
Brody Corners Tax  
Increment  
Financing Plan**

Sponsor: Lear. Council Bill 2022-053.

A special ordinance approving a Redevelopment Project for the Brody Corners Tax Increment Financing Plan and initiating tax increment financing therein.

Councilman Schilling asked for clarification on the proposed. Mr. Gage noted the proposed is specific to the redevelopment project only. Mr. Schilling expressed his belief the project is needed to get rid of the existing abandoned trailer court.

Council Bill 2022-053. Special Ordinance 27663 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: Hosmer. Vacant Seat: Zone 1.

**Historic Flag**

Sponsor: McClure. Council Bill 2022-048.

A special ordinance designating the official City flag adopted in 1938 as the Historic City Flag.

Council Bill 2022-048. Special Ordinance 27664 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Vacant Seat: Zone 1.

**The following item appeared on the agenda under Resolutions.**

**Ukraine Resolution**

Sponsor: City Council. Council Bill 2022-056.

A resolution condemning Russian aggression in Ukraine.

Jason Gage, City Manager, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Councilman Hosmer asked if the City has prepared for the possibility of any refugees from Ukraine. Mr. Gage responded he will follow up on this question.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson expressed his thanks to the City Manager for the proposed.

Councilman Hosmer read the resolution in its entirety.

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

Council Bill 2022-056. Resolution 10618 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Vacant Seat: Zone 1.

**Short-Term Rental Type 2 Permit: 3236 East Wayland**

Sponsor: Hosmer. Council Bill 2022-057.

A resolution granting a Short-Term Rental Type 2 Permit for the property located at 3236 East Wayland Street for the purpose of allowing the establishment of a Short-Term Rental Type 2 pursuant to Section 36-473 of the Land Development Code.

Daniel Neal, Senior City Planner, gave a brief overview of the proposed. Mr. Neal noted Short-Term Rental Type 2 are rented for less than 30 consecutive days, are not owner-occupied, must be in Residential Single Family (R-SF) or Residential Townhouse (R-TH) zoning districts, have a 500-foot notification and neighborhood meeting, and are not permitted on a block face with fewer than four residential structures unless approved by City Council. He further noted the proposed property is zoned Single Family Residential, is on a short block face, and a neighborhood meeting was held January 17, 2022. 75 notices were mailed; two adjacent property owner's signatures were acquired, and one additional property owner protested.

Councilman Lear asked if the incorrect signature received was from an adjacent property in which the current owner was deceased and the future owner of the

property was the one who signed creating an incorrect signature. He also asked if the block face issue would be the only remaining issue had the signature been correct. Mr. Neal answered affirmatively to both questions.

Councilman Ollis expressed thanks for the added step of mailing protest petitions. He asked why the process of bringing the application to City Council was implemented given the property does not meet the short block face rule. Mr. Neal noted properties on a short block face must be presented to City Council for consideration.

Councilman McGull expressed his appreciation for the updated language on the protest petition. He asked how much notice the property owners had to return the petition. Mr. Neal responded ten days.

Councilman Hosmer asked if the applicant met the 55% rule for adjacent owner consent. Mr. Neal answered the applicant did not. Councilman Hosmer expressed his opinion the regulations were put in place as a reasonable rule and exceptions are becoming greater than the rule.

Councilman Schilling asked if the department keeps track of property being acquired for short term rentals. Mr. Neal responded they have not noticed a trend to date noting there has been an increase in applications for short term rentals. He noted there have been 26 this year, and there are currently 210 short term rentals in operation.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson expressed his appreciation for the added language in the form. He asked if there have been any block face exceptions to date. Mr. Neal responded there have not.

An opportunity was given for citizens to express their views.

Hannah Bartley, property owner, addressed City Council. Ms. Bartley noted a short term rental option would not have been pursued if they had known the short face block was an issue. Ms. Bartley noted the plan for the property was short term rental only and the property was previously a long term rental. Mr. Simpson asked if the surrounding houses are rentals. Ms. Bartley expressed her belief that two of the houses are. Ms. Bartley noted she lives in Nixa, Missouri.

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

Council Bill 2022-057 failed with the following vote: Ayes: Lear. Nays: Hosmer, Ollis, Hardinger, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, and McClure Absent: None. Abstain: None. Vacant Seat: Zone 1.

**Jefferson Avenue  
Footbridge:  
RAISE Grant**

Sponsor: Hardinger. Council Bill 2022-058.

A resolution authorizing the City Manager or his designee, to apply for up to \$8,000,000 in grant funds from the United States Department of Transportation Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Grant Program to fund the improvements for the Jefferson Avenue Footbridge Rehabilitation Project.

Martin Gugel, Assistant Director of Public Works, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Mr. Gugel noted the department has sought additional funding options due to bids that were higher than originally anticipated, and the department is asking permission to apply for the grant. Mr. Gugel noted the application is a good fit for the grant, and the department will continue to seek other funding sources, as well.

Councilman Ollis thanked Mr. Gugel for exploring funding options and asked for clarification on the bids being deemed unresponsive. Mr. Gugel responded neither contractor could meet the goal and for the rebid the goal may have to be reset to be attainable.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson asked if a local match is required given the grant application is for 100%. Mr. Neal responded no match is required, and this grant focuses on disadvantaged zones, making the proposed eligible for 100%.

Anita Cotter, City Clerk, noted Abby Glenn provided written comments which were distributed to all councilmembers. Ms. Glenn expressed her support for the Jefferson Avenue Footbridge noting it is a historical marker of the City and vital to economic opportunity for Springfield's Northside.

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

Council Bill 2022-058. Resolution 10619 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Vacant Seat: Zone 1.

#### **EMERGENCY BILLS.**

#### **PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.**

#### **GRANTS.**

#### **AMENDED BILLS.**

#### **The following items appeared on the agenda under Public Hearing.**

**Rezoning: 1218,  
1226, 1238 East  
Pacific: GM to R-  
TH**

Sponsor: Ollis. Council Bill 2022-059.

A general ordinance amending the Springfield Land Development Code, Section 36-306, 'Official zoning map and rules for interpretation,' by rezoning approximately 0.30 acres of property generally located at 1218, 1226, and 1238 East Pacific Street from GM, General Manufacturing, to R-TH, Residential Townhouse, with Conditional Overlay District No. 209; establishing Conditional Overlay District No. 209; and adopting an updated Official Zoning Map. (Staff and Planning and Zoning Commission both recommend approval.)

Councilman Ollis moved to table Council Bill 2022-059 until the April 18, 2022, City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman McGull and approved with the following vote: Ayes: Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Vacant Seat: Zone 1.

**Rezoning: County  
Plot District No.  
1014 to R-SF**

Sponsor: Simpson. Council Bill 2022-060.

A general ordinance amending the Springfield Land Development Code, Section 36-306, 'Official zoning map and rules for interpretation,' by rezoning approximately 0.24 acres of property generally located at 3817 East San Poppi Court from County Plot Assignment District No. 1014 to R-SF, Single-Family Residential District; and adopting an updated Official Zoning Map. (Staff and Planning and Zoning Commission both recommend approval.)

Susan Istenes, Director of Planning and Development, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Ms. Istenes noted the plan would allow the applicant to build a structure, which includes a deck, and change the rear yard setback from fourteen to twenty feet on their lot which is part of a subdivision.

Councilman Lear asked if zoning has been changed from County to City on most properties in the location. Ms. Istenes noted most properties at this location are still under County zoning.

An opportunity was given for citizens to express their views.

Kelly Rhoades, the property owner, addressed City Council. Mr. Rhoades noted he has a building plan in which one corner of the deck reaches the fourteen foot setback. The property opens to common area. Mr. Rhoades requests City zoning to allow for the twenty foot setback.

Councilman Lear noted the buffer is from a common area. He further noted the City may review changing zoning in the remaining areas of the subdivision to City zoning. Jason Gage, City Manager, noted a review would be needed as areas are generally rezoned as they are annexed.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson asked if zoning requirements can be enforced if the City has not yet annexed the property. Mr. Gage noted legally the current zoning can be enforced, but there may be incompatibilities. He further noted the issue should be reviewed.

Councilman Ollis asked if there are other areas of the City where there is County zoning inside the City. Mr. Gage noted this item will be followed up on.

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

**Rezoning: 838  
East Walnut**

Sponsor: Schilling. Council Bill 2022-061.

A general ordinance amending the Springfield Land Development Code, Section 36-306, ‘Official zoning map and rules for interpretation,’ by rezoning approximately 0.29 acres of property generally located at 838 East Walnut Street from GI, Government and Institutional District, to R-HD, High Density Multi-Family Residential District, with Conditional Overlay District No. 208; establishing Conditional Overlay District No. 208; and adopting an updated Official Zoning Map. (Staff and Planning and Zoning Commission both recommend approval.)

Susan Istenes, Director of Planning and Development, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Ms. Istenes noted the rezoning changes the property from Government and Institutional District to High Density Multi-Family Residential District. She further noted the property will be limited to 11 dwelling units per acre.

Councilman Schilling asked if the historic designation remains with the property even though it is being converted for other use. Ms. Istenes answered affirmatively.

An opportunity was given for citizens to express their views.

Billy Kimmons, a representative for the applicant, addressed City Council. Mr. Kimmons noted the request is to allow for residential use and the property is intended to be used as a primary residence.

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

**The following items appeared on the agenda under First Reading Bills.**

**Merit System  
Rules and  
Regulations: City  
Health Care Plan**

Sponsor: McGull. Council Bill 2022-062.

A general ordinance amending the Springfield City Code, Chapter 2, Article III, Division 1, Section 2-91, known as the Merit System Rules and Regulations (“Merit Rules”), by amending Merit Rule 25.1 (City Health Care Plan) regarding the Plan’s reserves policy.

Darla Morrison, Director of Human Resources, gave a brief overview of the proposed. Ms. Morrison noted the proposed would allow amendments to the Health Care Plan parameters. Ms. Morrison introduced Segal Consultant representatives, Mitch Bramstaedt, Lead Consultant, and Tom Wyszomirski, Actuarial Work Specialist, to present the proposed.

Mr. Bramstaedt noted the City Health Plan is very stable due to efficient management of the plan. He further noted this stability is in part a result of the allowance of increases if the reserves drop below 6 months and the risk sharing contract with Mercy hospital. He added the proposed changes would update current statutory language to ensure reserves remain stable and adhere to modest annual increases or plan changes.

Tom Wyszomirski noted without changes to the reserve policy, adjustments would not be allowed until reserves drop below 6 months, causing the plan to need dramatic changes to remain solvent. He further noted proposed changes to the plan would allow the plan to have reserves up to the year 2030. The language would allow adjustments to price if needed.

Ms. Morrison added the plan adds a mechanism that evaluates the ratio of expenses to income.

Councilman Ollis expressed his thanks to Ms. Morrison for being proactive and being a good steward of the health plan. Mr. Ollis asked if the cost of specialty drugs has driven up the claim costs. Ms. Morrison noted it is a factor, but not the sole factor.

Councilman McGull asked if the City Manager has discretion for plan changes. Ms. Morrison noted there would be discretion under the new plan.

Councilman Lear asked who members of the Health Plan Committee are. Ms. Morrison noted there are various members on the Committee, including management, employees, and Union representatives, and noted she will send more detailed information to City Council.

Councilman Hosmer asked what employees currently pay for dependent coverage. Ms. Morrison noted employees pay 100% of dependent coverage.

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

**Ozarks Empire  
Fair: Subrecipient  
Agreement**

Sponsor: Lear. Council Bill 2022-063.

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to enter into an agreement with the State of Missouri, Office of Administration, for the purpose of accepting funds appropriated by the General Assembly for the benefit of the Greene County Agricultural Society d/b/a the Ozarks Empire Fair because the funds cannot be disbursed from the Office of Administration directly to the Ozarks Empire Fair; authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to enter into a subrecipient agreement with the Ozarks Empire Fair Foundation for the funds appropriated by House Bill 19, Section 19.405, Fiscal Year 2022 for the benefit of the Ozarks Empire Fair; and amending the budget of the City of Springfield for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 in the amount of \$5,000,000.

Rhonda Lewsader, City Attorney, provided a brief overview of the proposed. Ms. Lewsader noted the proposed would authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to enter into a recipient agreement with the Office of Administration, and a subrecipient agreement with the Ozarks Empire Fair Foundation to disperse funds in the amount of \$5,000,000.

Kent Hyde, a representative of the Fair Board, addressed City Council. Mr. Hyde noted the funds will be used for a multi-purpose arena.

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

**The following items appeared on the agenda under Petitions, Remonstrances, and Communications.**

Tim Winters did not appear to address City Council.

Paul Marshall did not appear to address City Council.

Margaret Clarke addressed City Council. Ms. Clarke expressed her belief sober living homes exist but do not adhere to zoning regulations. She noted sober living homes can have up to ten people, can be placed into any location, and are federally protected. Ms. Clarke added there are several sober living homes in her neighborhood.

Rusty Worley addressed City Council. Mr. Worley provided an update on the downtown area. He noted examples such as the Discovery Center being awarded a \$1,000,000 grant for their work during COVID-19, Springy Jeans becoming a top vintage online retail store in the country, An Art Collective on Walnut Street leasing a new space across the street, Billiards reopening, and the 505 Project having over 500 units with a \$50,000,000 investment to revitalize a previously blighted area. Mr. Worley expressed his enthusiasm for the World Fishing Fair and the Grant Street Parkway project. Mr. Worley noted he is chair of the Neighborhood Advisory Council and their nuisance property work group will bring forth recommendations in the future.

**NEW BUSINESS.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS.**

**MISCELLANEOUS.**

**CONSENT AGENDA – FIRST READING BILLS.**

**The following items appeared under Consent Agenda – One Reading bills.**

**Local Violent  
Crime Prevention  
Grant**

Sponsor: Lear. Council Bill 2022-064.

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to accept the Local Violent Crime Prevention Grant in the amount of \$13,699 from the State of Missouri, Department of Public Safety; amending the budget for the Police Department for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 in the amount of \$13,699; and declaring this bill qualifies as a one reading bill pursuant to Charter Section 2.16(25).

Council Bill 2022-064. Special Ordinance 27665 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Vacant Seat: Zone 1.

**Environmental  
Epidemiology  
Study**

Sponsor: Lear. Council Bill 2022-065.

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to accept \$36,000 in grant funds from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services to be utilized for reimbursement of costs related to participating in a statewide COVID-19 Environmental Epidemiology study and to enter into necessary agreements to carry out the grant; amending the budget of the Department of Environmental Services Clean Water Enterprise Fund for Fiscal Year 2021-2022; and declaring this bill qualifies for approval in one reading.

Council Bill 2022-065. Special Ordinance 27666 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Vacant Seat: Zone 1.

**CONSENT AGENDA – SECOND READING BILLS.**

**END OF CONSENT AGENDA.**

**Motion to Adjourn**

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson moved to adjourn. Councilwoman Hardinger seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote. Ayes: Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, Schilling, Simpson, and McClure. Nays: Hosmer and McGull. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Vacant Seat: Zone 1.

  
Anita J. Cotter, CMC/MRCC  
City Clerk

Prepared by  
Michelle Brown