

March 22, 2021
Springfield, Missouri

The City Council met in regular session March 22, 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. Andrew Lear, Abe McGull, Matthew Simpson, Mike Schilling, Phyllis Ferguson, Jan Fisk, Craig Hosmer, Richard Ollis, and Ken McClure. Absent. None.

Minutes

The minutes of March 8, 2021 City Council meeting and March 9, 2021 and March 16, 2021 Special City Council meetings were approved as presented.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda was approved as presented.

CEREMONIAL MATTERS

City Manager Report

Jason Gage, City Manager, noted the City's sales tax revenues for March 2021 were up approximately 6.56% than budgeted. He further noted the March 2021 sales tax revenues were up approximately 5% more than last year's March 2020 revenues. Mr. Gage noted sales tax revenues are trending an average of approximately 3% over the past 12 months. He further noted the City's sales tax information is available on the City's website at www.springfieldmo.gov.

Mr. Gage noted a virtual industry meeting would be held about the Grant Avenue Parkway project on Thursday, April 1, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. immediately followed by a mixer for those with disadvantaged company business enterprises to discuss the design build construction method about the project for potential company submissions. He noted the City will be releasing the Request for Qualifications upon the completion of the virtual industry meeting. Mr. Gage added company businesses can register at <https://grantavenueparkway.com>.

Mr. Gage noted the City will be kicking-off a second round of public engagement activities regarding the Renew Jordan Creek Master Plan. Individuals can view additional information at www.renewjordancreek.com.

Mr. Gage noted the Public Works Department has begun repairing potholes on City streets. He further noted the Missouri Department of Transportation has also started repairing potholes on state roadways within the City, such as Glenstone and Kansas Expressway. Mr. Gage noted individuals can report potholes to the Citizens Resource Center at 864-1010, submit a request via the City's website at www.springfieldmo.gov, or may submit a photo to the City via a smartphone app "Go Springfield MO."

Mr. Gage noted the Public Information and Civic Engagement Office is working with several City departments and area organizations regarding a citywide clean-up initiative called Clean Green Springfield. He further noted individuals and organization groups may fill out a volunteer interest form at www.cleangreensgf.com.

Mr. Gage noted a moment of silence will be observed tomorrow morning during a press briefing at approximately 10:00 a.m. to remember the 426 local individuals who lost their lives due to the COVID-19 pandemic during the past year. He further noted tomorrow will mark the one-year anniversary of our first COVID-19 death in Greene County. Mr. Gage added the press briefing will be streamed live on the City's website, as well as on Facebook.

Mr. Gage noted the City has hired Danny Perches as the City's Development Project Facilitator effective March 29, 2021. He noted this position will be an extension of the City Manager's Office to regularly review the status of all development projects, work directly with developers, designer and contracts to move projects efficiently through the development review process and identify and recommend development process and other changes to the City's leadership.

Mr. Gage noted Mary Lilly Smith, Director of Planning and Development, recently announced her retirement after serving approximately 38 years of public service with the City. He further noted her last day in the office will be April 30, 2021. Mr. Gage expressed his appreciation for Ms. Smith's dedicated service to the City.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferguson noted a local organization recently conducted clean-up efforts on Kansas Expressway, and did a great job. She further noted this area is once again littered with trash and debris. Mayor Pro Tem Ferguson expressed her belief one of the reasons for the continued littering is trash trucks not being fully covered. She asked for clarification whether the local trash companies have been contacted for possible clean-up efforts and litter prevention for Clean Green Springfield. Mr. Gage answered affirmatively and noted part of the Clean Green Springfield efforts will include efforts to help reduce the amount of trash and refuse within the community. Mr. Gage expressed his belief it is important for the community to look nice and clean.

Councilman Schilling asked City staff to provide a progress report about the enforcement of excessively loud vehicles within the community in the future. Mr. Gage answered affirmatively and noted City staff would provide information for City Council's review.

Mayor McClure congratulated the Kickapoo Chief boys' basketball team for recently winning the Class 6 State Championship over Liberty.

Councilman Simpson, who attended Kickapoo, also congratulated the Kickapoo Chief boys' basketball team for their recent State Championship win.

Public Health Director Report

Katie Towns, Acting Springfield-Greene County Health Director, gave a COVID-19 update. Ms. Towns noted efforts continue to move forward in the right direction to reduce COVID-19 within the community for the Road to Recovery. She further noted the City is currently meeting two of the three phased approach thresholds proposed within the Road to Recovery plan. Ms. Towns added the 7-day rolling case average is approximately 21. She further added approximately a week ago, the 7-day rolling case average was 29.

Ms. Towns noted there were 8 positive COVID-19 cases confirmed yesterday, which is the first single digit reporting day since approximately July 4, 2020. She further noted approximately 44 individuals are being treated at local hospitals for COVID-19. Ms. Towns added 18 of the approximately 44 individuals are Greene County residents.

Ms. Towns noted approximately 63,000 Greene County residents, or 26.4%, have received their first vaccine dosage. Additionally, 28,000 Greene County residents have received their two-dosage vaccine for immunization. Ms. Towns noted the Center for Disease Control recently released a report about the percentage of Missourians who will return to receive their second vaccine dosage, which was nearly 93% between the vaccination dates of December 14, 2020 - February 14, 2021. She expressed her belief many Greene County residents are proceeding with vaccination efforts as they are eligible.

Ms. Towns thanked the numerous community partners and organizations, such as the Jordan Valley Community Health Center, for their dedicated efforts in helping to immunize and protect individuals during the COVID-19 pandemic. She noted Phase 2 of the State's vaccine distribution plan will open on March 29, 2021 and Phase 3 will open on April 9, 2021.

Ms. Towns encouraged everyone to remain vigilant by wearing a mask over the mouth and nose, social distance when out in public, and to wash your hands even after being fully vaccinated. She noted the local Health Department staff and the Springfield Public School officials had worked with the Center for Disease Control officials about students and COVID-19. Ms. Towns further noted a nationwide report was recently released by the Center for Disease Control about the Springfield Public School conducting modified COVID-19 quarantining with students at school when a student who experienced a low-risk exposure and masking was being utilized within the classroom to help prevent possible exposure to others. She added the Center for Disease Control is recommending school students who are masked in the classroom can practice a 3 feet distance now as opposed to a 6 feet distance.

Ms. Towns expressed masking should continue to be utilized until there is assurance the COVID-19 variants do not create a widespread transmission of this disease. She further expressed the Health Department continues to monitor COVID-19, as well as the variant strains.

Ms. Towns noted tomorrow will mark the community's first death from COVID-19. She encouraged everyone to participate in tomorrow's day of remembrance during a news briefing at approximately 10:00 a.m., which will be livestreamed on the City's website and Facebook page, to remember all of the love ones who have passed away due to the COVID-19 pandemic and to remember their loved ones affected by this terrible disease.

Mayor McClure thanked Mr. Gage and Ms. Towns for tonight's updates.

The following bills appeared on the agenda under Second Reading.

Rezoning at 1720 West Grant Street

Sponsor: Schilling. Council Bill 2021-053.

A general ordinance amending the Springfield Land Development Code, Section 36-306, 'Official zoning map and rules for interpretation,' by rezoning approximately 1.37 acres of property generally located at 1720 West Grand Street from R-LD, Low-Density Multi-Family Residential District with Conditional Overlay District No. 178, to GR, General Retail District; establishing Conditional Overlay District No. 195; and adopting an updated Official Zoning Map. (Staff and Planning and Zoning Commission both recommend approval.) (By: College of the Ozarks; 1720 West Grand Street; Z-1-2021 w/COD #195.)

Council Bill 2021-053. General Ordinance 6642 was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Lear, McGull, Simpson, Schilling, Ferguson, Fisk, Hosmer, Ollis, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

Conditional Use Permit No. 448 – 2420 East Blaine Street

Sponsor: McGull. Council Bill 2021-054.

A special ordinance granting Conditional Use Permit No. 448 for the purpose of authorizing an adaptive reuse of a nonresidential structure as a multi-family residential use with a Conditional Use Permit in a R-TH, Residential Townhouse District generally located at 2420 East Blaine Street as a conditional use. (Staff and Planning and Zoning Commission recommend approval.) (By: The Lackey Building, LLC; 2420 East Blaine Street; Conditional Use Permit 448.)

Council Bill 2021-054. Special Ordinance 27474 was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Lear, McGull, Simpson, Schilling, Ferguson, Fisk, Hosmer, Ollis, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

Southwest Treatment Plant Lab/Administration Building Improvements

Sponsor: Schilling. Council Bill 2021-055.

A special ordinance approving the plans and specifications for the Southwest Treatment Plant Lab/Administration Building Improvements; accepting the base bid of Bales Construction Company, Inc., in the amount of \$575,800, plus a 10 percent contingency, for said project; authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to enter into a contract with such bidder; and approving a budget adjustment to amend the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget for the Department of Environmental Services in the amount of \$633,380 by appropriating reserves of the Clean Water Enterprise Fund.

Council Bill 2021-055. Special Ordinance 27475 was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Lear, McGull, Simpson, Schilling, Ferguson, Fisk, Hosmer, Ollis, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

**Agreement with Ozarks
Clean Water Company –
English Village**

Sponsor: Hosmer. Council Bill 2021-056.

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to enter into a Wastewater Service Contract and Mutual Aid Agreement with the Ozarks Clean Water Company for the purpose of continuing to provide contract wastewater service to the English Village mobile home park and approved, adjacent areas in Christian County.

Council Bill 2021-056. Special Ordinance 27476 was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Lear, McGull, Simpson, Schilling, Ferguson, Fisk, Hosmer, Ollis, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

**Wastewater Charges
and Rates**

Sponsor: Ollis. Council Bill 2021-057.

A general ordinance amending Chapter 120, 'Wastewater Regulations,' Article VI, 'Wastewater Charges and Rates,' Section 120-245, 'Rates of the Springfield City Code,' by establishing a new rate schedule that provides a volumetric or wholesale charge for applicable wastewater customers beginning July 1, 2021, which shall facilitate a new method of billing wastewater charges to Springfield's satellite communities and other potential wholesale customers.

Council Bill 2021-057. General Ordinance 6643 was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Lear, McGull, Simpson, Schilling, Ferguson, Fisk, Hosmer, Ollis, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

**Building Development
Services – Code
Compliance Officers**

Sponsor: Ferguson, Hosmer, McClure, and Simpson. Council Bill 2021-058.

A special ordinance amending the budget of the Department of Building Development Services for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 in the amount of \$150,000 to appropriate a portion of the Fiscal Year 2018-2020 carryover funds to provide the equivalent of three full-time additional code compliance officers to enhance proactive City Code enforcement.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferguson expressed her support for the proposed. She further expressed a more proactive approach is needed in addressing the City's code enforcement, such as nuisance violations, in the community versus a reactive approach based on citizen complaints. Mayor Pro Tem Ferguson expressed her belief individuals are scared to complain about code violations within Zone 1 due to the possibility of neighbor retaliation.

Councilman Ollis expressed his support for the proposed. He thanked Mayor Pro Tem Ferguson and Dwayne Shmel, Director of Building Development Services, for their efforts regarding the proposed. Councilman Ollis further expressed the proposed should make a positive impact upon the neighborhoods in addressing nuisance violations within the community.

Council Bill 2021-058. Special Ordinance 27477 was approved by the following vote: Lear, McGull, Simpson, Schilling, Ferguson, Fisk, Hosmer, Ollis, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

**City Utilities – Variance
to the Unauthorized
Use Charge**

Sponsor: Lear. Council Bill 2021-059.

A general ordinance authorizing a variance to the unauthorized use charge for receiving overrun gas after notice and without prior approval, each as described or defined in the Curtailable Gas Service Rate (Gas Rates Sheet No. 3 of General Ordinance 6319), to be imposed by City Utilities of Springfield, Missouri.

Councilman Lear moved to amend Council Bill 2021-059 to by inserting the phrase “for each therm of overrun gas delivered to such customer in February 2021” after the word “therm” on line 25. Councilman Simpson seconded the motion.

Councilman Lear noted per Rhonda Lewsader, City Attorney, the proposed amendment is not substantive and is not required to be held over for two weeks for public comment.

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

Council Bill 2021-059 was amended. Amended General Ordinance 6644 was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Lear, McGull, Simpson, Schilling, Ferguson, Fisk, Hosmer, Ollis, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

**City Utilities – Variance
to the Recovery
Adjustment Factor**

Sponsor: Ollis. Council Bill 2021-060.

A general ordinance authorizing a variance to the Recovery Adjustment Factor for Under-recovery (Over-recovery) of Prior Purchased Gas Cost Dollars, each as defined in the Purchased Gas Clause (Gas Rates Sheet No. 4 of General Ordinance 6319), to be calculated by City Utilities of Springfield, Missouri.

Councilman Lear commended City Utilities for their willingness to help spread the utility cost out over a longer period for customers. He also encouraged customers to consider utilizing City Utilities Level Pay Program to help even out utility costs each month.

Council Bill 2021-060. General Ordinance 6645 was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Lear, McGull, Simpson, Schilling, Ferguson, Fisk, Hosmer, Ollis, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

The following bill appeared on the agenda under Resolutions.

**Sequoiota Park Title
Transfer and Expansion
to the Springfield-
Greene County Park
Board**

Sponsor: Simpson. Council Bill 2021-065.

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a deed transferring title on all parcels of real property that are currently part of and will now be added to Sequiota Park from the City of Springfield to the City of Springfield, Missouri, by and through the Springfield-Greene County Park Board for expansion of Sequiota Park and transferring management and operation of these parcels to the Park Board.

Bob Belote, Director of Springfield-Greene County Parks, provided an overview of the proposed. Mr. Belote noted Sequiota Park, which was acquired in 1959, is one of the most popular and frequented historic park areas within the parks system. He further noted with the increasing patron demands, an expansion of the Sequiota Park would greatly benefit the local area, community, parks system, and the City. Mr. Belote added a presentation was given at the February 2, 2021 City Council Luncheon meeting, which provided a history of the Sequiota Park site, the issues that need addressed to improve this park area, and possible plans for future development and improvement this community park area. He noted Sequiota Park is currently 12.7 acres. Mr. Belote noted the proposed transfer of title is for 28.87 acres of property to the Springfield-Greene County Park Board, which is currently zoned for use as Green Space and Parks. He further noted by formally designating three city tracts as Park properties to expand Sequiota Park, better long-term planning for both park and trail amenities could be implemented and developed. Mr. Belote added the proposed is already being utilized for stormwater and park purposes. He noted the proposed is consistent with the 2018-2019 “Our Galloway” planning process for the corridor and has the unanimous support of the various City departments.

An opportunity was given for citizens to express their views.

Mary Kromrey spoke in support of the proposed. Ms. Kromrey noted she is the Executive Director of the Ozark Greenways. She expressed her belief the proposed will help provide an extension to the existing Galloway Creek Greenway Trail and future connections to other greenway trails, which will benefit the community.

Barry Gannaway spoke about his concerns regarding the proposed tract of property in question near East Lacuna Street and the existing Sequiota Park area. He expressed his belief the City was supposed to implement a water detention basin to help with flooding issues.

Mayor McClure asked for clarification regarding the proposed tract of property in question near East Lacuna Street and the existing Sequiota Park area. Mr. Belote noted the issue of stormwater would be one of the first components reviewed for consideration and possible implementation for the proposed.

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

Councilman Simpson expressed his support for the proposed. He further expressed his appreciation to Mr. Belote, the Springfield-Greene County Parks Department, the Park Board, and City staff for the proposed.

Councilman Ollis expressed his support for the proposed. He further expressed his excitement for the proposed Sequiota Park expansion for individuals to enjoy and benefit from the outdoors. Councilman Ollis expressed his appreciation to Mr. Belote, the Springfield-Greene County Parks Department, the Park Board, and City staff for the proposed. He also commended Councilman Simpson for his dedicated support for the Galloway area.

Council Bill 2021-065. Resolution 10564 was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Lear, McGull, Simpson, Schilling, Ferguson, Fisk, Hosmer, Ollis, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

Grant Avenue Parkway Corridor Plan

Sponsor: Schilling. Council Bill 2021-066.

A resolution adopting the Grant Avenue Parkway Corridor Plan as an element of the City's Comprehensive Plan. (Planning and Zoning Commission and staff recommend approval.)

Randall Whitman, Principal Planner, provided an overview of the proposed. Mr. Whitman noted a public hearing was held on the proposed at the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting held on March 11, 2021. He further noted at the January 11, 2021 City Council meeting, Resolution No. 10548 was approved regarding extending the existing administrative delay pertaining to the Grant Avenue Parkway area for an additional 180 days. Mr. Whitman noted the administrative delay is on track. He further noted the proposed adopts the Grant Avenue Parkway Corridor Plans as an element of the City's Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Whitman added in 2019, the City received an approximate \$21,000,000.00 federal Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development grant to design and build the Grant Avenue Parkway. He noted once completed, the Grant Avenue Parkway will create an off-street pedestrian and bicycle pathway along Grant Avenue between Sunshine Street and College Street.

Mr. Whitman noted the goal of the Grant Avenue Parkway Corridor Plan is to promote reinvestment and redevelopment that leverages the new Grant Avenue Parkway as an asset. He further noted the planning area pertaining to the Grant Avenue Parkway Corridor Plan is approximately 1.25 miles from College Street to Catalpa Street. Mr. Whitman added during the community engagement sessions, more than 2,000 individuals directly engaged and participated regarding the Grant

Avenue Parkway Corridor Plan. He noted in coordination with the Forward SGF comprehensive planning effort, the Grant Avenue Parkway Corridor Plan incorporates the use of placetypes, which is an approach that focuses not just on the land use, but also on the design, functionality, and access to infrastructure. Mr. Whitman outlined the intent of the proposed is to provide recommendations and strategies to help encourage with the creation of unique places and individualized identity with an emphasis on new development being designed at a pedestrian-scale along the Grant Avenue Parkway area. He further outlined the proposed also pays close attention to opportunities to capitalize and encourage both redevelopment and reinvestment that helps target a variety of housing types, neighborhood commercial and placemaking strategies.

Mr. Whitman outlined the proposed also includes several transportation recommendations to better connect the Grant Avenue Parkway area to neighborhoods, greenway trails, and to facilitate new development opportunities. He noted the proposed breaks the corridor down into six different subareas and establishes a framework for each subarea. He further noted the regulatory framework and recommended development strategies and regulations for each subarea are intended to capitalize on the unique character of the area and to accommodate existing development while encouraging additional opportunities for redevelopment and reinvestment of the properties within those areas. He noted if the proposed is approved, the following two additional items would be brought to the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council around June 2021: a Parkway Overlay Zoning District, which would establish the development code for the Grant Avenue Parkway Corridor; and Rezoning of parcels to Parkway Overlay Zoning District.

Councilman Schilling asked for clarification whether the City has conducted any past projects like the proposed for a comparison. Mary Lilly Smith, Planning and Development Director, expressed her belief the City has not conducted a project like the proposed with over a \$20,000,000.00 grant opportunity for a public infrastructure project in a residential neighborhood area in the past.

Brandon Nolin, a consultant from Houseal Lavigne, was also available to address any questions from the City Council. There were no questions posed by the City Council for Mr. Nolin.

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

Councilman Ollis expressed his support for the proposed. He further expressed his excitement for the Grant Avenue Parkway Corridor Plan to help better benefit the community by possibly providing economic development opportunities. Councilman Ollis expressed his appreciation to Mr. Whitman, City staff, Houseal Lavigne, and the community for the proposed.

Councilman Lear expressed his support for the proposed. He further expressed his belief the proposed will help transform and better the community.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferguson expressed her support for the proposed. She expressed her appreciation to City staff, Houseal Lavigne, and the community for the proposed, which is within Zone 1. Mayor Pro Tem Ferguson further expressed she would also like Commercial Street and the Ozarks Empire Fairgrounds to also be considerations for future planning opportunities like the proposed.

Mayor McClure expressed his support for the proposed. He further expressed his opinion there are many opportunities to possibly extend the economic vitality corridor in the future, such as towards the Commercial Street area. Mayor McClure thanked everyone for their participation for the proposed.

Council Bill 2021-066. Resolution 10565 was approved by the following vote: Lear, McGull, Simpson, Schilling, Ferguson, Fisk, Hosmer, Ollis, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

Sponsor: McClure, Hosmer, and Simpson. Council Bill 2021-067.

A resolution affirming City Council's intent to use the three key indicators set forth in the "Next Steps on the Road to Recovery" memo from the Springfield-Greene County Health Department to determine when to step down or out of the City's COVID-19 public health and safety regulations.

Katie Towns, Acting Springfield-Greene County Health Director, provided an overview of the proposed. Ms. Towns noted a presentation entitled Continuing the Road to Recovery was conducted at the March 9, 2021 City Council Luncheon meeting. She further noted three key indicators were outlined during the presentation; the 7-day average case count, hospitalizations due to COVID-19, and the percent of the eligible population in Greene County that has been fully vaccinated. Ms. Towns noted these three key indicators will help guide the City in a safe approach to stepping out of the public health and safety regulations that have protected our community during the COVID-19 pandemic. She noted the three key indicators will help provide guidance for the Health Department with future recommendations about what public health and safety regulations are needed at a given time. Ms. Towns added the local medical community, such as Cox Health and Mercy Hospital, helped provide input regarding the three key indicators with the Health Department. She noted the evaluation period will be 28-days for two full incubation periods of the virus to occur when considering for moving into the next step of the Road to Recovery.

Ms. Towns further noted by allowing two incubation periods to pass before making changes to the ordinance will increase confidence in sustained trends, protect against short-term variances, and give the community time to anticipate how ordinances will change. She outlined moving from red, to yellow, to green will be a stepwise approach with a goal that all three indicators be met to move closer towards the end of the Road to Recovery. Ms. Towns noted a copy of a

“Next Steps on the Road to Recovery” – COVID-19

memo dated March 5, 2021 from the Health Department is attached as Exhibit A for the proposed, which outlines the next steps on the road to recovery. She further noted data information will be the ultimate factor in moving towards a new phase, and progress is being made on individuals being vaccinated within the community. Ms. Towns reiterated approximately 28,000 Greene County residents or approximately 11% have received their two-dosage vaccine for immunization. She expressed her belief it is important to be optimistic about the road to recovery, while still proceeding cautiously with health and safety being a focus. Ms. Towns noted masking is still a significant tool to utilize during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as social distancing in public and hand washing.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferguson recused herself regarding Council Bill 2021-067.

Councilman Ollis expressed his support for the proposed. He further expressed his appreciation to Ms. Towns, the Health Department, and the community for their dedicated support during the COVID-19 pandemic. Councilman Ollis asked for clarification whether there would be a possibility for the City to potentially consider going into the phase yellow at the upcoming April 5, 2021 City Council meeting. Ms. Towns reiterated two of the three indicators are currently being met. She further noted there could be a possibility of proceeding to a yellow phase could be a consideration at the April 5, 2021 City Council meeting dependent upon the data information received about vaccination counts. Ms. Towns noted the Health Department staff will be closely monitoring the three indicators for possibly moving towards a new phase in the road to recovery, especially due to the COVID-19 variants occurring within the United States. Councilman Ollis asked for clarification whether the yellow phase would remove the COVID-19 occupancy requirements from local businesses. Ms. Towns noted the yellow phase would remove most occupancy restrictions from local businesses, but masking would still be required, and physical distancing would be recommended.

Councilman Hosmer asked for clarification regarding the order to proceed from red to the yellow phases relating to the case counts. Ms. Towns noted to progress from red to the yellow phase, the 7-day average case count will need to be below 40 cases per day for a 28-day period. She further noted a 7-day average is utilized to account for inconsistent reporting days due to testing and when cases are reported to the state. Ms. Towns noted as it stands two of the three indicators are currently being met for the date of March 24, 2021. Councilman Hosmer asked for clarification regarding the vaccination percentage rate needed to proceed from red to the yellow phase.

Ms. Towns reiterated approximately 28,000 Greene County residents or approximately 11% have received their two-dosage vaccine for immunization. She further noted the percentage needed of residents vaccinated for the yellow phase is 25%. Ms. Towns added vaccinations have been slowly being previously released, but are now becoming more readily available for immunizing eligible individuals. Councilman Hosmer asked for clarification whether the Health Department receives data information if Greene County residents receive their vaccinations from other counties within the state. Ms. Towns answered affirmatively and noted

the state has some lag time in providing data information back to the counties for resident immunization rates. Councilman Hosmer asked for clarification whether the phases would revert if the three indicators worsen. Ms. Towns noted if after progressing to the next phase and any of the three indicators worsen, before regressing to one of the previous categories, the Health Department currently recommends conducting an exploration into the reasons behind the change and would present findings to City Council before stepping back into additional restrictions. She further noted in evaluating both hospitalizations and vaccinations, if the data do not meet the threshold indicators, additional exploration into the data and partnership with healthcare professionals would occur. Ms. Towns added based on information found, the Health Department would make recommendations to City Council.

Mayor McClure expressed his support for the proposed. He further expressed he is cautiously optimistic towards the road to recovery.

Councilman Simpson expressed his support for the proposed. He further expressed the proposed has clear data matrix in place to move from one phase to another, but still serves as a guide for health and safety for the community. Councilman Simpson also expressed his appreciation to Ms. Towns, Health Department staff, and City staff for the proposed.

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

Council Bill 2021-067. Resolution 10566 was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Lear, McGull, Simpson, Schilling, Fisk, Hosmer, Ollis, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: Ferguson. Abstain: None.

EMERGENCY BILLS

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

The follow bill appeared on the agenda under Grants.

Grants for Springfield- Branson National Airport

Sponsor: Fisk. Council Bill 2021-068.

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to apply for and accept two grants from the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, as part of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, to the City, by and through the Springfield-Branson National Airport Board in an amount of \$3,861,521, for the purpose of providing funds for the Springfield-Branson National Airport Board to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency; amending the budget of the Airport Board for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 in the amount of \$3,861,521; and declaring that this bill qualifies for approval in one reading.

Brian Weiler, Director of Springfield-Branson National Airport, provided an overview of the proposed. Mr. Weiler noted the objective of the proposed is to help assist the Airport in enduring the economic impact from the COVID-19 pandemic. He further noted the proposed will help provide supplementing debt service on the Airport's terminal building and employee salaries during this time, as well as provide some relief to the Airport's tenant concessionaires. Mr. Weiler noted the Airport received a similar grant last May 2020 from the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration for COVID-19 pandemic relief. He expressed his belief there are positive and encouraging signs of recovery for the travel industry. Mr. Weiler noted the Airport currently has 12 destinations for airport travel, which is the same before the COVID-19 pandemic occurred. He noted in May 2021, Allegiant Air will be going to Houston, which will make 13 destinations from the Airport. Mr. Weiler noted the Airport Board reviewed and approved the proposed and recommends the City Council accept these grants.

Mayor McClure expressed his appreciation to Mr. Weiler for managing the Airport during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

Council Bill 2021-068. Resolution 27478 was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Lear, McGull, Simpson, Schilling, Ferguson, Fisk, Hosmer, Ollis, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

AMENDED BILLS

COUNCIL BILLS FOR PUBLIC HEARING

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

**Purchase of Land
Located at 404 North
Jefferson Avenue –
Jordan Valley Concept
Plan**

Sponsor: Ferguson. Council Bill 2021-069.

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to enter into a contract for the purchase of land located at 404 North Jefferson Avenue, for the purpose of continuing the Jordan Valley Concept Plan for daylighting Jordan Creek; to execute all necessary documents in support thereof; and amending the budget for the Department of Public Works for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 in the amount of \$1,465,000. (Planning and Zoning Commission approved this Request to Acquire, and staff recommends approval).

Chris Dunnaway, Principal Engineer, provided an overview of the proposed. Mr. Dunnaway noted the proposed is approximately 3.44 acres and was the Meeks Lumber Distribution Center. He further noted the property in question is essential for fulfilling the vision as part of the Jordan Valley Concept Plan for daylighting Jordan Creek and restoring it to a naturalized meandering stream with adjacent open space, wetlands, and a greenway trail. Mr. Dunnaway noted the

proposed is within the Federal Emergency Management Agency's flood plain map area. He outlined the proposed is important to the City for purchase because it has been identified in the Jordan Valley Park Concept Plan, Railroad Configuration Study, and in the Renew Jordan Creek Vision. Mr. Dunnaway noted the sources of funding would be the 1/4-cent sales tax fund balance reserves and grant funding opportunities. He further noted City staff is coordinating with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to determine if the State's Revolving Loan program could be utilized to bond these future improvements. Mr. Dunnaway noted the proposed will expand on the current Renew Jordan Creek Phase I project between Main Avenue and Boonville Avenue to help reduce flooding through downtown, improve water quality and habitat in the Jordan Creek, and enhance redevelopment. He further noted the proposed will help make the community a desirable, competitive, and economically vibrant place to live, which include City Council's priorities for economic vitality, quality of place, public safety, and fiscal sustainability and accountability. Mr. Dunnaway commended the efforts of City staff members from Public Works, Environmental Services, Planning and Development, and the Law Department for the proposed.

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

2021 Supplemental Overflow Control Plan

Sponsor: Ollis. Council Bill 2021-070.

A special ordinance approving the proposed 2021 Supplemental Overflow Control Plan to comply with the Amended Consent Judgment; authorizing the City Manager to submit the proposed Supplemental Overflow Control Plan to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources for approval; and authorizing the City Manager to work with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the Missouri Attorney General's office to jointly file a motion with the Greene County Circuit Court to obtain court approval of the 2nd Amended Consent Judgment and 2021 Supplemental Overflow Control Plan.

Errin Kemper, Director of Environmental Services, provided an overview of the proposed. Mr. Kemper outlined the history regarding the proposed. He noted in 1995, the City entered a Consent Judgment with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources pursuant to the Clean Water Act to expend funds toward improvement of the infrastructure, maintenance, and capacity of the sanitary sewer collection and treatment facilities. Mr. Kemper further noted in 2012, the City negotiated an Amended Consent Judgment with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources for the next phase of work necessary to comply with federal and state mandates to further minimize sanitary sewer overflows. He added the Amended Consent Judgment had two main parts: an Early Action Plan, which included \$50,000,000 in investments over seven years and was completed in or around 2018; and a Long-Term Overflow Control Plan, which was approved by City Council and filed with the Greene County Circuit Court on May 1, 2015. Mr. Kemper noted the Overflow Control Plan committed to invest \$200,000,000 over a 10-year period with \$75,000,000 occurring during a Foundation Projects Phase between 2015 and 2020 and \$125,000,000 occurring during an Advanced Action

Plan phase between 2021 and 2025. He added since the Overflow Control Plan was not expected to be sufficient to meet all the goals of the Amended Consent Judgement, the Overflow Control Plan also included a requirement for reevaluation and submittal of an updated plan by July, 2025 for Phase 3 improvements for the period beyond 2025.

Mr. Kemper noted the water quality of Wilsons Creek, which is near the Southwest Wastewater Treatment Plant, has been significantly improved from the City's updated improvements in wastewater treatment. Mr. Kemper added the proposed would allow the City to extend the current compliance schedule to make sound investments in the sewer system by utilizing adaptive management, while improving the issue of water quality. He further added the proposed also helps keep sewer rates affordable for citizens. Mr. Kemper noted City staff is proposing to modify the Overflow Control Program Advanced Action Plan Phase with a Supplemental Overflow Control Plan that will establish the remaining level of investment at \$300,000,000 and extend the compliance schedule with a reevaluation date of 2035. He further added the new \$300,000,000 investment commitment replaces the remaining \$125,000,000 of investment required by the Overflow Control Program for 2021-2025 over the 15-year period for a net increase in investment commitment of \$175,000,000 and adds ten years to the compliance schedule. Mr. Kemper noted the impact on ratepayers regarding the proposed would be roughly a 2.5% annual rate increase would be anticipated for the life of the modification. He further noted the proposed adds predictability and stability to the City's sewer rates for the next 15 years, while the City works on its regulatory requirements.

Mayor McClure asked for clarification whether City staff has met with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and Missouri Attorney General's Office about the proposed. Mr. Kemper answered affirmatively.

Councilman Hosmer asked for clarification regarding the proposed 2nd Amended Consent Judgement. Mr. Kemper noted the proposed 2nd Amended Consent Judgement would replace the current Amended Consent Judgment. He further noted the proposed would implement state and federally mandated upgrades, rehabilitation, and enhancement of the City's wastewater collection and treatment systems to further minimize capacity-related sewer overflows, which occur in response to heavy rain falls. Mr. Kemper added City staff has made major infrastructure improvements within the last five years, while obtaining better information and insight about the City's overall infrastructure system. He expressed he is confident City staff will continue to make major improvements to the City's infrastructure system by or near 2025, which may help possibly remove the amended consent decree in the future. Councilman Hosmer asked for clarification regarding the City's Infiltration and Inflow Program locations. Mr. Kemper noted City staff targets area locations based upon the infiltration and inflow within the City's sanitary sewer collection system and treatment plants to help prevent sewer overflow and backups. He further noted the City's Infiltration and Inflow Program has been successful at helping reduce sewer overflow and backups. Mr. Kemper added City staff would continue to work on preventing

infiltration and inflow within the City's sanitary sewer collection system to help prevent sewer overflow and backups within the community. He noted the City has an aging infrastructure system, which is why a major investment is needed. Councilman Hosmer commended the City's Environmental Services Department for their dedicated efforts and service to the community.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferguson asked for clarification whether the pipe renewal project for the City's infrastructure system would be completed within the next 15 years. Mr. Kemper noted City staff conducted a marginal cost analysis to help provide the optimal level of investment needed regarding the pipe renewal for the City's infrastructure system. He added not all the piping needs to be replaced within the City's infrastructure system, but there are numerous clay pipes that need replacement. Mr. Kemper expressed City staff believes if 63% of the clay pipes are replaced, additional investment yields a less than optimal rate of return. He added as the pipes are replaced, City staff will have a better understanding on the amount of time it will take regarding the pipe renewal project. Mayor Pro Tem Ferguson asked for clarification regarding the percentage of pipes currently replaced regarding the City's infrastructure system. Mr. Kemper noted roughly 23% of the pipes within the City's infrastructure have been replaced. He further noted there is currently a vendor contract for pipe lining being conducted, so when this has been finalized, approximately 40% of the pipes within the City's infrastructure would be complete.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferguson asked for clarification regarding the City's Green Infrastructure plan. Mr. Kemper noted the Clean Water Act requirements is a driving force regarding the City's Green Infrastructure plan. He further noted the components of the Green Infrastructure plan will include projects, programmatic components, and pollutant trading opportunities to improve the water quality of our lakes, streams, and rivers. Mr. Kemper added by incorporating green components, it will help save monies for the City and community in the long-term. Mayor Pro Tem Ferguson thanked Mr. Kemper and the Environmental Services Department for their dedicated service to the community.

Councilman Schilling asked for clarification whether there is a household and commercial pretreatment system available for use to help save the impacts upon the City's sanitary sewer system. Mr. Kemper expressed his belief he has heard some speculation but does not know of a particular household pretreatment viably designed currently for individual implementation. He noted septic tanks for holding sanitary waste would be a similar comparison, but septic tank systems must be replaced and updated due to failures. Mr. Kemper noted the City is trying to get most households within the City access to the City's sanitary sewer system to help protect the environment. He further noted the City's sanitary sewer system is an asset to the community and environment.

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

**2021 Community
Development Block
Grant and HOME
Investment Partnership
Program Funds**

Sponsor: McGull. Council Bill 2021-071.

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to apply to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for Federal Fiscal Year 2021 Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnership Program funds under the Consolidated Plan, to accept Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnership Program funds, to enter into any necessary agreements to carry out the grants, and to exercise any and all powers necessary to implement selected projects; selecting projects for funding for the City of Springfield Fiscal Year 2021-2022; reaffirming the Community Development Objectives and Priorities; and declaring that this Ordinance qualifies as a one-reading bill pursuant to City Charter Section 2.16(25). (City Council is not expected to vote on this Ordinance after the first reading on March 22, 2021.)

Bob Jones, Grants Administrator, provided an overview of the proposed. Mr. Jones noted the City is applying for \$1,627,327 in Community Development Block Grant funds and \$1,050,047 in HOME funds for the next fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021. He further noted to meet Housing and Urban Development deadlines, the proposed must be adopted by April 26, 2021 to allow public review and comment prior to submission of the application to the Housing and Urban Development. Mr. Jones added currently, the City is in year one of the Consolidated Plan, which is a five-year plan.

Mr. Jones noted the Community Development Block Grant proposals from applicants were received and a joint public hearing was held on January 12, 2021 with the City Council and Citizens Advisory Committee for Community Development. Mr. Jones further noted City staff rated approximately 13 project application requests per meeting objectives and priorities of the City Council and the federal Community Development Block Grant requirements. He added the Citizens' Advisory Committee for Community Development held a meeting on January 26, 2021 to review, discuss, and consider City staff's assessment and recommendations. Mr. Jones noted 2 of the applicant requests were not public service requests, so they did not meet the specific criteria for ranking.

Mayor McClure thanked Mr. Jones and City staff for their work regarding the proposed.

Councilman Hosmer asked for clarification whether HOME funds could be utilized for new housing construction projects. Mr. Jones answered affirmatively and noted many of the developers who apply for HOME funds prefer to build new housing construction projects versus rehabilitation housing projects. He noted developers who utilize HOME funds are required to keep their construction housing projects affordable for at least 20 years.

Councilman Hosmer asked for clarification whether the \$737,000 for HOME funds pertaining to rental housing and down payment assistance would be utilized for infill and new construction housing projects for affordable housing. Mr. Jones answered affirmatively.

Councilman Hosmer expressed his belief there should be measures for obtaining data information about energy conservation for new housing construction projects within the community. He further expressed a cost benefit analysis for gathering data about energy conservation, such as one home constructed with the City's basic code requirements versus a home constructed with additional energy conservation codes simultaneously, would be beneficial to help provide City Council and City staff obtain valuable information about the issue of energy efficiency. He added this may also help possibly provide information for helping individuals with utility cost savings. Jason Gage, City Manager, noted City staff would review this possibility and would provide additional information to the City Council. He further added there may be variables that may be difficult to isolate for a comparable analysis to be conducted. Mr. Jones noted constructions costs for new housing materials have significantly increased within the last 12 months. He reiterated City staff would review this request and would provide additional information to the City Council.

An opportunity was given for citizens to express their views.

Trish Hubbell spoke in support of the proposed. Ms. Hubbell noted she is the Chairwoman of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Community Development. She further noted the Citizens Advisory Committee for Community Development would like to recommend a risk identifier be added to the scoring objectives for reviewing and ranking future project proposals. Ms. Hubbell added the Citizens Advisory Committee for Community Development would also like the scoring free from any bias, such as organizations based upon religion. She expressed her belief more diversification is needed, so new projects may be submitted versus the same project requests every year. Ms. Hubbell noted the Citizens Advisory Committee for Community Development would be asking the City Council to consider a possible resolution for possible changes and updates to the City's Community Development Block Grant Program in the future.

Mayor McClure thanked Ms. Hubbell and the Citizens Advisory Committee for Community Development for the proposed and their dedicated service to the community.

Councilman Schilling noted he had difficulty in hearing Ms. Hubbell's comments due to the audio system. He asked for clarification whether she would be able to provide her comments in writing to the City Council. Johnathan Saunders, Assistant City Clerk, noted he would contact Ms. Hubbell to request a written statement if available.

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

PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES, AND COMMUNICATIONS

Elena Kunevich addressed the issue of harassment. Ms. Kunevich expressed her belief she is being harassed and discriminated against at her apartment complex for the past several months. She expressed her frustration with apartment management and the Police Department for not taking actions to prevent the discrimination and harassment. Ms. Kunevich further expressed her opinion mental evaluations need to be implemented and conducted on individuals who harass and discriminate against others within the community. She also expressed her belief a street should be named after Police Officer Christopher Walsh, who died in the line of duty nearly one year ago.

Lisa Meeks addressed the issue of masking. Ms. Meeks expressed her opinion the City Council does not appear to take her previously presented statements and analysis as fact. She further expressed her belief the masking mandate is unjust. Ms. Meeks expressed her belief the City Council should not be extending the masking mandate, because masking does not work as a preventative tool in preventing COVID-19.

Heather Dietz did not appear to address City Council.

Gerald Keim addressed the issue of COVID-19. He noted during tonight's meeting 426 individuals within Greene County have died due to COVID-19 within the past year. He expressed his belief this does not constitute a civil emergency within the community. Mr. Keim further expressed his belief numerous individuals have also been committing suicide as well as other numerous mental health issues and abusive situations that individuals have been experiencing within the past year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He expressed his opinion these individuals are not being memorialized and being discussed by City staff or City Council. Mr. Keim encouraged everyone to vote at the upcoming April 6, 2021 election.

NEW BUSINESS

The Public Involvement Committee recommends the following reappointments to the Board of Equalization: Shana Mitchell and Courtney Pinkham-Martin with terms to expire April 1, 2026.

The Committee of the Whole recommends the following appointment to the Board of Public Utilities: Heather Ramsey with a term to expire December 1, 2023.

Councilman McGull expressed his belief with the new federal stimulus bill, the Plans and Policies Committee and City staff should possibly meet in the future to discuss how these monies should be potentially utilized to benefit the community. Jason Gage, City Manager, noted City staff and Greene County staff are reviewing this issue, and would provide City Council with additional information for their review. He further noted City staff is awaiting further guidelines from the Department of the Treasury.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MISCELLANEOUS

CONSENT AGENDA FIRST READING BILLS

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

**Appointment to the
College Station
Community
Improvement District
Board of Directors**

Sponsor: Lear. Council Bill 2021-072.

A resolution confirming the appointment of Thomas Spitzley to the College Station Community Improvement District Board of Directors. (Staff recommends approval.)

Council Bill 2021-072. Resolution 10567 was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Lear, McGull, Simpson, Schilling, Ferguson, Fisk, Hosmer, Ollis, and McClure. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

CONSENT AGENDA SECOND READING BILLS

The Public Involvement Committee confirms the following reappointment to the Personnel Board: Erica Cook with term to expire March 1, 2024.

The Public Involvement Committee confirms the following appointment to the Planning and Zoning Commission: Chris Lebeck with term to expire January 1, 2025.

The City Manager confirms the following reappointment to the Building Trades Examination & Certification Board: Greg Lewis 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: Lear, McGull, Simpson, Schilling, Ferguson, Fisk, Ollis, and McClure. Nays: Hosmer. Absent. Abstain: None. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:55 p.m.



Anita J. Cotter, CMC/MRCC
City Clerk

Prepared by
Anita Baker