

July 26, 2021
Springfield, Missouri

The City Council met in regular session July 26, 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, Matthew Simpson, Craig Hosmer, Richard Ollis, Andrew Lear, Heather Hardinger, Angela Romine, Abe McGull, Ken McClure. Absent: None.

Minutes The minutes of July 12, 2021 were approved as presented.

Consent Agenda The Consent Agenda was approved as presented.

Mayor McClure recognized Christian Barrett of Boy Scout Troop 239, chartered by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, who is attending tonight's meeting for his Citizenship and Community Badge.

CEREMONIAL MATTERS

City Manager Report

Jason Gage, City Manager noted on July 23, the Springfield Fire Department was dispatched to the 2000 block of South Lone Pine Avenue with reports of multiple residents still inside the home. Mr. Gage noted the fire resulted in multiple fatalities. He expressed that our hearts go out to this family and to the Galloway Village community. The fire remains under investigation by the Bureau of Fire Prevention. Additional information will be released as soon as it is available. Mr. Gage asks the media for their patience as they work through this investigation.

Mr. Gage provided an overview of the updated masking policy. He noted to mitigate the impacts of the surge of the Delta variant of COVID-19, City employees are required to mask during work hours and under the same guidance that was previously applied. Employees who can demonstrate to their supervisor they are fully vaccinated aren't required to wear a face covering, though they can do so if they wish. The City will once again offer employees a vaccination incentive of a \$20 gift card and a paid day off if they are vaccinated by the end of September. Mr. Gage noted that he was proud of the ongoing dedication of Springfield-Greene County Health Department employees and the effort all of us have made to continue to provide quality services to our citizens.

Mr. Gage announced that as of July 18, Katie Towns is the new Director of Public Health for Springfield-Greene County. He noted Ms. Towns has served as Acting Director the past five months, following the departure of Clay Goddard. Ms. Towns has served as operational lead in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic locally and has provided regional consultation and coordination. Over the years, Ms. Towns has been a highly skilled leader for the Health Department. She has also done a terrific job

in the acting director role and carries with her the highest level of confidence from our community health care providers.

Mr. Gage asked the City Clerk to administer the Oath of Office to Ms. Towns. He then welcomed Ms. Towns to her new role.

Katie Towns, Director of Health, provided a COVID-19 update. She noted that the community is still in the middle of a crisis. She further noted that 27 people have passed away this weekend while hospitalized at Cox and Mercy. Last Tuesday hospitalizations in Greene County have reached the highest level of cases seen and by Friday the City had broken that record two more times. The State has granted the request submitted on behalf of the Health Department, Emergency Management, Cox Health, Mercy, and Jordan Valley for expanded EMS capacity, equipment, and staff to provide antibody infusion treatments. She further noted the monoclonal antibody treatment station is open and had nine patients scheduled and Jordan Valley Community Health is now available to treat up to 30 patients. She noted that antibody technology will ease the burden on hospitals by preventing the need for hospital stays amongst those patients. The Health Department is working with FEMA and the State to finalize the details remaining from the request made at the beginning of the month and the Health Department will provide more information once its available.

Ms. Towns noted the hospitalization statistics for Greene County. She further noted that Greene County has a 7-day rolling average of Delta variant cases. Ms. Towns noted currently there are 101 patients in critical care and expressed that many of these statistics are due to deaths and not because individuals are getting better and going home. She noted that this variant is now impacting people across all ages more severely than the original strain. She further noted that anyone that is not vaccinated is at risk of severe illness that could require hospitalization. Ms. Towns expressed that just over 41% of Greene County residents 12 and over are now vaccinated. She provided an overview of statistics for vaccinated individuals over the weekend. Ms. Towns noted that even if people decided to get vaccinated today that it would still take time to work. She further noted that children are now getting sick and urging residents to take the proper social distancing protocol as before to help get the case numbers and hospitalization down. She noted that business and organizations are encouraged to create and enforce their own prevention measure to protect staff and their guests. Ms. Towns then thanked the health care workers for everything they do to respond to this crisis as it doesn't show signs of letting up anytime soon.

Mayor McClure thanked Ms. Towns.

Councilwoman Romine noted she has received feedback from her constituents. She further noted many of her constituents raised concerns regarding vaccines and the use of masks. She expressed her belief the approved vaccinations, and extended mask wearing, cause more harm than help and expressed her support for alternative medications to combat COVID-19.

Ms. Towns thanked Councilwoman Romine for addressing her constituent's concerns. She expressed her belief the information addressing COVID-19, its variants, and vaccinations that has been provided by the Springfield-Greene County Health Department is science-based and factual. She noted the approved vaccines are safe. She encouraged all citizens who are vaccine-hesitant, or have general questions, to consult their family doctor or primary care physician.

Councilman McGull noted the case numbers that happened during the previous surge of COVID-19. He inquired what benchmark would cause the City and the Health Department to reinstate masks. Ms. Towns noted that currently we are in the middle of a crisis and we are just responding. The Health Department is focused on utilizing resources to locate additional health care personnel to care for people due to the shortness in staff. She further noted currently we are not at a point where there are resources to allocate re-evaluating and adjusting perimeters but may do so in the future. Councilman McGull noted that all options should be considered since this pandemic is running ramped in the community in less than 60 days.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson expressed appreciation for Ms. Towns standing up for accurate information and for the vaccine clinics. Mayor Pro Tem encouraged individuals to go to their doctors when considering making medical decisions. He noted that it is encouraging to hear the increase of vaccines of 41% in the last weekend.

Councilman Hosmer noted historically there have been resistance to vaccines; however, polio, measles, mumps, and rubella vaccines were effective in reducing those diseases. He noted almost 200 million people have received the vaccine with small incident rates. He expressed that individuals should look at the overwhelming evidence of what works.

Mayor McClure noted that if we don't get our vaccination rate to 70% and above, we will not be able to get through this pandemic due to the mutations. He noted that he is pleased with the work that the Health Department is doing to answer questions about COVID-19 and the variant.

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

**Park Board's
Fiscal Year 2020-
2021 Operating
Budget.**

Sponsor: Hardinger. Council Bill 2021-174

A special ordinance amending the Park Board's Fiscal Year 2020-2021 operating budget by increasing both revenue and expenses in the amount of \$1,753,260.02 to allocate \$1,300,000.00 of revenue and associated offsetting expense items from Parks 2001 and 2006 Sales Tax Funds and \$453,260.02 of revenue and associated expense items within the Golf Fund, respectively.

Council Bill 2021-174. Special Ordinance 27537 was approved with the following vote:
Ayes: Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, Romine, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, Hosmer, and McClure. Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds; American Rescue Plan

Sponsor: Lear. Council Bill 2021-175

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to accept \$40,276,290 in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, established by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, from the U.S. Department of the Treasury; and amending the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget in the amount of \$40,276,290 for the purpose of appropriating these funds.

Council Bill 2021-175. Special Ordinance 27538 was approved with the following vote:
Ayes: Lear, Hardinger, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, Hosmer, Ollis, and McClure. Nays: Romine. Absent: None Abstain: None

Sanitary Sewer Overflow Control Program; Department of Environmental Services Clean Water Enterprise Fund.

Sponsor: Lear. Council Bill 2021-176

A special ordinance approving the plans and specifications for the Sanitary Sewer Overflow Control Program, Group 6 Public Sewer Rehabilitation – Open Cut Repairs project; accepting the bid of Rosetta Construction, LLC, in the amount of \$5,485,050 for the project; authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to enter into a contract for said project; and approving a budget adjustment in the amount of the bid, plus a contingency, to amend the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget of the Department of Environmental Services Clean Water Enterprise Fund by appropriating reserves of said fund in the amount of \$6,582,060.

Council Bill 2021-176. Special Ordinance 27539 was approved with the following vote:
Ayes: Hardinger, Romine, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, and McClure. Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Springfield Code, Chapter 96, Storm Water Article III, Land Disturbance Activity

Sponsor: Hardinger. Council Bill 2021-177

A general ordinance amending the Springfield City Code, Chapter 96, ‘Storm Water,’ Article III, ‘Land Disturbance Activity,’ by removing the security requirement, including additional requirements regarding permit duration and termination, providing additional enforcement mechanisms, and making other changes necessary for consistency with program policies and state land disturbance regulations.

Councilman Hosmer had several questions regarding which community groups were involved in discussing the proposed and offered recommendations for said policy. Ron Petering, Assistant Director of Environmental Services provided an overview of the current process for gathering community group feedback. Jason Gage, City Manager noted these questions were previously addressed at the prior Council meeting. He added that the current policy in place is a long-standing practice and should Council desire a change, they may direct him to do so.

Councilman Ollis inquired if this bill reduces or changes any regulations. Mr. Petering noted that it does not. Councilman Ollis expressed this is what businesses should do to get work done more quickly. He noted this would allow for more contractors to get involved with the process.

Councilman Lear expressed it is practical for all departments to seek expert opinion on policies that affects those fields. He further expressed that we need further discussions on regulations so that things can get done in a timely manner.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson expressed his appreciation for what staff has done. He noted that our experts should engage with other experts to provide feedback and recommendations to make changes.

Councilwoman Hardinger asked clarifying questions regarding policy and procedures of reaching out to different environmental groups. Mr. Petering reiterated the process. Councilwoman Hardinger noted that if certain environmental groups wanted to speak on any of these policies and procedures, they would have a way to do so. Jason Gage, City Manager answered affirmatively.

Council Bill 2021-177. General Ordinance 6671 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Romine, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, and McClure. Nays: Hosmer. Absent: None Abstain: None

**Ozark Greenways,
Inc; Galloway
Creek**

Sponsor: Simpson. Council Bill 2021-178

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to enter into an agreement with Ozark Greenways, Inc., granting a perpetual conservation easement on City-owned property bordering portions of Galloway Creek.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson noted the Ozark Greenways and James River Basin Partnerships have been great partners with the City. He expressed his appreciation for the work these organizations have done to make projects like the improvements of Galloway Creek happen.

Council Bill 2021-178. Special Ordinance 27540 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: McGull, Schilling, Simpson, Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, Romine, and McClure. Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

**National Avenue
and Commercial
Street Signal
Replacement'
Ewing Signal
Construction, LLC**

Sponsor: McGull. Council Bill 2021-179

A special ordinance approving the plans and specifications for the National Avenue and Commercial Street Signal Replacement project; accepting the bid of Ewing Signal Construction, LLC, in the amount of \$159,359.08 for said project; and authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to enter into a contract with such bidder.

Council Bill 2021-179. Special Ordinance 27541 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Schilling, Simpson, Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, Romine, McGull, and McClure. Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement with the Ozarks Transportation Organization

Sponsor: Romine. Council Bill 2021-180

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to enter into an Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement with the Ozarks Transportation Organization, for the purpose of funding a study of the North 13 Corridor Study; and amending the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget of the Department of Public Works in the amount of \$80,000 to appropriate Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant funds for this project.

Council Bill 2021-180. Special Ordinance 27542 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Simpson, Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, Romine, McGull, Schilling, and McClure. Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Fiscal Year 2020-2021 operating budget of the City of Springfield in the General Fund

Sponsor: Hosmer. Council Bill 2021-181

A special ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 operating budget of the City of Springfield in the General Fund by increasing both revenue and expenses in the amount of \$93,580, for the purpose of adjusting for certain reimbursements and associated offsetting expenses as well as adjusting the salary budget for retirement payouts.

Council Bill 2021-181. Special Ordinance 27543 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, Romine, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, and McClure. Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Fiscal Year 2020-2021 operating budget for City of Springfield in various Special Revenue and Capital Project Funds

Sponsor: Ollis. Council Bill 2021-182

A special ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 operating budget of the City of Springfield by increasing both revenue and expenses in the amount of \$313,228, in various Special Revenue and Capital Project Funds, for the purpose of accounting for certain reimbursements and associated offsetting expenses.

Council Bill 2021-182. Special Ordinance 27544 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, Romine, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, and McClure. Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

The following bills appeared on the agenda under Resolutions.

Street name change; Farm Road 168 to Roundtree Road

Sponsor: Schilling. Council Bill 2021-184

A resolution declaring the intent of the City of Springfield to annex approximately 107 acres of private property and right-of-way generally located at 3482 and 3839 South State Highway FF and 4003 West Farm Road 168 into the City of Springfield, and the intent to change the street name of Farm Road 168 to Roundtree Road. (Staff recommends approval.)

Brendan Griesemer, Acting Director of Planning and Development gave an overview of the proposed. He noted this is a request annex land into the City. Mr. Griesemer noted the requested approximately 107 acres of land located at West Bypass and James River Freeway. He further noted this bill will initiate a street name change from Farm Road 168 to Roundtree Road.

Mayor McClure clarified this bill is just the intent to annex the land. Mr. Griesemer answered affirmatively.

Councilman Hosmer inquired how the name of the road was suggested. Mr. Griesemer noted it was the name for the County and it would carry over to this road.

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

Council Bill 2021-184. Resolution 10588 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, Romine, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, Hosmer, and McClure. Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Grant to Upgrade LeCompte Road

Sponsor: McGull. Council Bill 2021-185

A resolution authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to apply for a grant from the United States Economic Development Administration and the United States Department of Commerce in the amount of \$1,500,000, for the purpose of upgrading LeCompte Road, from East Division Street (Route YY) north to the BNSF Railroad Crossing, and the LeCompte Road and Division Street intersection.

Dan Smith, Director of Public Works gave an overview of the proposed. He noted this grant would partially fund a cost share for Springfield Underground on LeCompte Road. Mr. Smith noted this funding would allow for the City to widen the road to three lanes around the railroad track, improve the shoulder and add a turning lane from Division Street onto LeCompte Road. Mr. Smith noted that doing so would allow economic growth for Springfield Underground and would bring more jobs to the area. He noted working with Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG) and learned this grant was a better opportunity for the City than others in the past.

Mayor McClure clarified this bill is giving permission to apply for the grant.

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

Council Bill 2021-185. Resolution 10589 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, Romine, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, Hosmer, and McClure. Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

EMERGENCY BILLS

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

The following bills appeared on the agenda under Grants.

U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration; Pathway Home 2 Grant

Sponsor: Hosmer. Council Bill 2021-186

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to accept \$3,000,545 in grant funds from the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration in order to perform grant activities as approved for the Pathway Home 2 grant; entering into necessary agreements to carry out the grant; amending the budget of the Department of Workforce Development for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 in the amount of \$3,000,545 to appropriate the grant funds; and declaring that this bill qualifies for approval in one reading.

Sally Payne, Interim Director of Workforce Development gave an overview of the proposed. She noted this is a direct Department of Labor re-entry grant called the Pathway Home 2. She noted this would allow for the employment and training of 400 justice involved individuals that are to be released back to the Springfield and surrounding areas. She further noted the services will mainly be utilized in the Ozark Correctional Center, the Tipton Correctional Center, and the Chillicothe Correctional Center.

Councilman Ollis congratulated Ms. Payne on this grant. He noted that one of the City issues is workforce and it is important. He expressed that this grant will be a great addition to our community.

Councilman McGull expressed his support for the proposed. He further expressed this grant is a great way to address workforce development and the growing need for employees in the community. Ms. Payne noted that when the labor market is tight, it encourages us work with an untapped workforce.

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

Council Bill 2021-186. Special Ordinance 27545 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Lear, Hardinger, Romine, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, Hosmer, Ollis, and McClure. Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance grant

Sponsor: Lear. Council Bill 2021-187

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to accept a Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance grant from the Missouri Department of Conservation; amending the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget of the Department of Public Works in the amount of \$18,663.26 to appropriate grant funds; and declaring that this bill qualifies for approval in one reading.

Colten Harris, Superintendent of Streets gave an overview of the proposed. He noted the Department of Conservation has awarded the TRIM grant (Tree Resources

Improvement Maintenance Grant) to the City. He further noted if accepted would be sending people to the Missouri Community Forestry Council, MCFC. Mr. Harris noted this conference would allow for training to receive continuing education credits for arborist and urban forests. He expressed this grant will make sure that the best managing practices are utilized to take care of the community's trees. Mr. Harris further noted this would benefit public works and parks employees.

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

Council Bill 2021-187. Special Ordinance 27546 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Hardinger, Romine, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, and McClure. Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

AMENDED BILLS

PUBLIC HEARING

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

Emergency Services; 'Automated External Defibrillators'

Sponsor: Hardinger. Council Bill 2021-188

A general ordinance amending Springfield City Code, Chapter 50, 'Emergency Services,' Article III, 'Automated External Defibrillators,' by deleting Article III in its entirety.

David Pennington, Fire Chief gave an overview of the proposed. He noted this would delete Article III in Chapter 50 of 'Emergency Services' as it is no longer needed. He further noted in 2018 when pulse point was implemented it took the place of the requirements in Article III and those responsibilities were taken over by both hospitals.

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

Mayor McClure asked Ms. Cotter to read Council 2021-189, Council Bill 2021-190, and Council Bill 2021-191 together.

Fire Prevention and Protection; Emergency Responder Radio Coverage

Sponsor: Lear. Council Bill 2021-189

A general ordinance amending the Springfield City Code, Chapter 54, 'Fire Prevention and Protection,' Article II, 'Fire Prevention Code,' Section 54-32, 'Amendments and additions,' by adding specific local amendments to Section 510 'Emergency Responder Radio Coverage,' subsections 510.4.1.1 and 510.4.1.2, of the 2018 International Fire Code, relating to modifying the Delivered Audio Quality of the Trunked 800 MHz radio system

Fire Prevention and Protection; revising the current numbering subsection

Sponsor: Hosmer. Council Bill 2021-190

A general ordinance amending the Springfield City Code, Chapter 54, 'Fire Prevention and Protection,' Article II, 'Fire Prevention Code,' Chapter 9, 'Fire Protection and Life Safety Systems,' Section 901, by creating a new subsection of 901.6.1.1, 'Vendor Registration,' and revising the current numbering of subsection 901.6.1.1 to become 901.6.1.2, 'Certifications,' and amending the language.

Fire Prevention and Protection; 'Access and loading'

Sponsor: Ollis. Council Bill 2021-191

A general ordinance amending the Springfield City Code, Chapter 54, 'Fire Prevention and Protection,' Article II, 'Fire Prevention Code,' specifically Appendix D, Section D102, 'Required Access,' and amending language contained within subsection D102.1, 'Access and loading.'

David Pennington, Fire Chief gave an overview of Council Bills 2021-189, 2021-190 and 2021-191. He noted these bills address language in Springfield City Code Chapter 54, 'Fire Prevention and Protection,' Article II. He noted Council Bill 2021-189 will address the delivered air quality for radio transmissions which would help with the quality of radio transmission to responders when they arrive on the scene of an emergency. Chief Pennington noted that Council Bill 2021-190 would create a mandatory vendor registration program to ensure that the City of Springfield's requirements for testing of fire protection systems are followed. Chief Pennington further noted that Council Bill 2021-191 would modify the carrying capacity in the fire lanes to allow the appropriate carrying capacity for larger fire ladder companies.

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

Firefighter Apprenticeship program.

Sponsor: Simpson. Council Bill 2021-192

A special ordinance authorizing the City of Springfield Fire Department to enter into an agreement with the Missouri Department of Labor for the establishment of a Firefighter Apprenticeship program.

David Pennington, Fire Chief gave an overview of the proposed. He noted this program would give Springfield the chance to be the first department in the State of Missouri to have a registered Department of Labor apprenticeship program. Chief Pennington further noted as an organization this program would help the City with employee recruitment and retention. He mentioned this would provide benefits to employees or potential employees who would want to attend the Fire Academy and serve those through the region. Chief Pennington noted a benefit would be validity in a program that is recognized by the Department of Labor and could provide certification and college credit. He further noted this program is the foundation for other programs that the department and work force development are collaborating on to help with jobs within the region.

Mayor McClure expressed his surprise this program would be the first of its kind in the State of Missouri.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson thanked Chief Pennington for his hard work with staffing the vaccination clinics in the community. He noted that this program is creating a new pathway for young people to get into this career.

Councilman Hosmer asked how the apprenticeship would work. Chief Pennington explained that when they come to the Fire Academy through a scholarship or an internship as they enter the program. He noted this program gives those individuals recognition in other crafts, trades and labors associated programs Chief Pennington noted they would still go through the process of going to the academy but would have this program as an added benefit. He further noted this would allow for the Fire Department to be eligible for additional grant-based programs. Councilman Hosmer inquired if the Police Department had a similar program. Chief Pennington expressed that he was not familiar with programs available to that department. Councilman Hosmer asked Chief Pennington to report the progress once the apprenticeship program was up and running.

Councilman McGull expressed his support and noted that starting this program is an outstanding opportunity.

Councilwoman Romine expressed her support for this opportunity. She noted she is a fan of apprenticeships in the trades and is glad to see one in the Fire Department. Councilwoman Romine thanked Chief Pennington for everyone on the team that worked the proposed.

Councilwoman Hardinger noted that she supports apprenticeships. She reiterated that the City will be the first to implement this in our Fire Department. She noted that there is a misconception that apprenticeships are only for trade workers. She further noted that the Department of Labor offers this to multiple industries not only in trade work.

Mayor McClure expressed his gratitude for the hard work the Fire Department put into assisting in the tragedy of a family lost in a fire earlier in the week. Chief Pennington noted that he cannot emphasize how heroic the acts that he witnessed that morning and how extremely proud he is of those fire fighters.

Councilman Hosmer thanked Chief Pennington for the hard work. Councilman Hosmer inquired if the home was equipped with smoke detectors. Chief Pennington noted the home did have smoke detectors that were installed in 2013 and that the investigation should end tomorrow.

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

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

Kevin Berry addressed the issue of COVID-19. He presented his proposed cure for the virus to the Council. He provided a packet of information to Council should they have any question.

Carol Hutcherson addressed the issue of the masking mandate. She expressed she is frightened of getting COVID-19 and that she feels that wearing a mask has saved her life. She noted that before May, things were getting better; until the mask mandate was lifted; hospitals are now full. Ms. Hutcherson noted that she feels that masks work and encouraged the City Council to add it back to the agenda.

Daryl Baker did not appear to address City Council.

Dolly Vranka addressed Robberson Neighborhood crime issues. She noted once Community Partnership of the Ozarks, CPO, moved into her neighborhood there has been an increase in crime. Ms. Vranka expressed issues that are causing distress in the neighborhood. She noted an increase in home invasions and burglaries. She inquired what the City Council could do to hold those responsible and help the situation.

Councilman McGull noted that he and the Neighborhood Association met on Friday to discuss this issue. He noted these concerns have been voiced to the City Manager and hopes to get some positive results. He suggested that we should bring CPO into this conversation as this is happening on one of their properties.

Councilwoman Romine noted that this is happening in Zone 1 as well. She further noted forwarding these issues to the City Manager. Councilwoman Romine noted that many people are coming from out of town, increasing the population and that we do need to come up with a solution.

Councilman Ollis mentioned another resident from the same neighborhood with complaints. He expressed that he is not sure what the answer is but noted there needs to be some accountability. He encouraged sending this information the City Manager as well.

Isreal Reel addressed the issue of crime in the Robberson Neighborhood. He noted that he owns a business in this area and will be forced to close his doors due to the increase of crime. Mr. Reel stated that he has people sitting outside of his business doing drugs causing him to call the police. He further noted that this angers those committing the crime and has resulted in someone defecating on his car. Mr. Reel noted he used to help people, but it has destroyed his business due to trash on his property and the amount of homeless loitering. He noted going to the neighborhood association meeting with Police Area Representative, PAR, officer where suggestions were made but due to lack of money cannot be implemented.

Councilman McGull thanked Mr. Reel for coming and speaking. He noted that we should look more intensely into this situation.

Councilman Hosmer asked for more clarification regarding other reasons Mr. Reel has called the police. Mr. Reel noted that he has called due to people being unresponsive on the ground, the usage of drugs, and public drunkenness. He expressed understanding that the City does not have enough officers at this time. Councilman Hosmer noted that there are other ideas that need to be look at due to this happening all over the city.

Councilman Ollis noted his family business has had these same issues almost 40 years ago. He expressed sympathy to Mr. Reels situation and noted that hopefully the community can ban together to find a solution to these issues.

Councilwoman Romine encouraged Mr. Reel to persevere and to not give up.

Councilman Lear noted that this is a problem that is escalating. He further noted that we need more mental health services and places for citizens to be during the day. He noted it is going to take money. He expressed that this is a policing problem but there are more mental health issues and the need for services.

Diana Hodges addressed crime in the Robberson Neighborhood. She noted areas around her home that homeless have utilized to sleep and urinate. She further noted that she bought her home to retire in but is considering moving due to the increase of issues she is facing.

The following items appeared on the agenda under New Business.

- Recommended** The Mayor recommends the following appointment to the Public Housing Authority: Lynne Mitchell, with term to expire April 11, 2023.
- Recommended** The Mayor recommends the following appointment to the Tree City USA Citizen Advisory Committee: Kevin Harrell, with term to expire December 21, 2023.
- Recommended** The Mayor recommends the following appointment to the Springfield- Greene County Public Library Board: David Yancey, with term to expire July 1, 2024.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MISCELLANEOUS

The following bill appeared on the agenda under Consent Agenda First Reading Bill.

**Resurfacing
Portions of Farm
Roads 114,107, and
116**

Sponsor: Romine. Council Bill 2021-193

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to enter into an Intergovernmental Cost Share Agreement with Greene County, Missouri, to share the costs associated with resurfacing portions of Farm Roads 114, 107, and 116, with the City's expected contribution not to exceed \$40,000.

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

Smoke Alarms through Recycling Grant.

Council Bill 2021-194 (Ollis)

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to accept and appropriate a grant through the Ozarks Headwater Recycling and Materials Management District, funded by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, in the amount of \$2,500, to provide for the proper disposal of smoke alarms through recycling; amending the budget for the Fire Department of the City of Springfield, Missouri, for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 in the amount of \$2,500; and declaring this Ordinance qualifies for approval on one reading pursuant to Charter Section 2.16(25).

Planters for Commercial Street

Council Bill 2021-195 (Romine)

A resolution approving the use of funds from the Minor Neighborhood Improvement Program in the amount of \$2,000 for planters on Commercial Street within Zone 1.

Minor Neighborhood Improvement Program; Kickapoo Ave and Cherry St.

Council Bill 2021-196 (McGull)

A resolution approving the use of funds from the Minor Neighborhood Improvement Program in the amount of \$39,000 for improvements in Zone 2 to repair and place a new surface in the alley between Kickapoo Avenue and Pickwick Avenue north of Cherry Street.

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

Confirmed

Confirm the following appointments to the Art Museum Board: Amanda Stadler, and Lindsey Kelsay, with terms to expire June 1, 2024.

Confirmed

Confirm the following reappointment to the Building Trades Examination & Certification Board: Rory Krueger, with a term to expire December 1, 2023.

Confirmed

Confirm the following reappointments to the Springfield-Greene County Park Board: Susan Turner and Randall Blackwood, with terms to expire June 1, 2024.

Confirmed

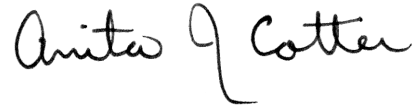
Confirm the following appointment to the Springfield-Greene County Park Board: Mark McNay, with a term to expire June 1, 2024.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA.

Motion to Adjourn

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson moved to Adjourn. Councilwoman Romine seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote. Ayes. None. Nays. None. Absent. None. Abstain. None. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Prepared by
Lauren M. Fischer

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anita J. Cotter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'A'.

Anita J. Cotter, CMC/MRCC
City Clerk