

August 9, 2021
Springfield, Missouri

The City Council met in regular session August 9, 2021 in the Council Chambers at Historic City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ken McClure. He acknowledged this is the bicentennial year of Missouri's statehood. He also wanted to acknowledge our health care professionals and first responders impacted by COVID-19. A moment of silence was observed.

Roll Call Present: Matthew Simpson, Craig Hosmer, Richard Ollis, Andrew Lear, Heather Hardinger, Angela Romine, Abe McGull, Mike Schilling, Ken McClure. Absent: None.

Minutes Anita Cotter, City Clerk noted the minutes of the August 3, 2021 Special City Council meeting were inadvertently not uploaded and will therefore be presented for approval at the August 23, 2021 City Council meeting. There being no additional deletions or corrections, the minutes of July 26, 2021 City Council meeting were approved as presented.

Consent Agenda The Consent Agenda was approved as presented.

CEREMONIAL MATTERS

City Manager Report Jason Gage, City Manager noted at the request of the City Council Community Involvement Committee, the City of Springfield is collecting public input through Aug. 18 about the current Springfield flag and whether the City should consider adopting a new flag. He further noted participants interested will have the opportunity to submit their own flag design in addition to providing feedback about the current Springfield flag and a proposed new flag. Mr. Gage noted the results from the survey will be provided to the City Council to advise further action.

Mr. Gage noted the Department of Workforce Development in conjunction with the City of Springfield launched a new podcast series exploring topics related to Workforce Development, economic vitality, and quality of place. The first episodes have been released and are available on most major podcast platforms and on the City's new podcast page at Springfieldmo.gov. He further noted Workforce Vibe is hosted by Sally Payne, Interim Director of Workforce Development for the City of Springfield. Mr. Gage noted community leaders will join Sally each episode to discuss what factors play into recruiting and retaining talent in Springfield area and beyond. He further noted the first two episodes feature guests Cora Scott and Tim Rosenbury from the City of Springfield and Francine Pratt from Prosper Springfield.

Mr. Gage noted bikers with End of Watch arrived at the Springfield Police Department's South District Station Sunday. An image of Officer Chris Walsh is among several photos on a 41-foot trailer is traveling across the country. He explained last year the End of Watch Ride honored 146 fallen officers across the country and as of this year have honored 338 officers who lost their lives in 2020 while serving their

communities. Mr. Gage acknowledged the City will remember Officer Walsh and his ultimate sacrifice.

Mr. Gage noted members of the Springfield Fire Department and the local International Association of Fire Fighters continue to help the Springfield- Greene County Health Department with COVID-19 vaccination clinics. He noted the efforts the City has made since May and acknowledged Springfield Fire Department expanding COVID-19 testing opportunities by offering appointments for free PCR testing from 7:30 – 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. at Station 8, located at 1405 S. Scenic. He further noted the Fire Department will partner with Jordan Valley Community Health Center for a Route 66 Vaccination Clinic.

Mr. Gage acknowledged the Springfield- Greene County Health Department and their work to manage the pandemic.

Katie Towns, Director of Health provided an update on the pandemic. Ms. Towns noted the past two months the pandemic has caused an increase in cases. She noted we lost 58 people in the month of July alone. Ms. Towns mentioned the Health Department has partnered with the University of Minnesota to increase the number of samples to be sent off for genetic sequencing. Ms. Towns noted the result of these samples submitted by Cox Health and Mercy identified as the Delta variant. She further noted the seven-day average of COVID-19 cases is 152, down 9% over the past week and down 32% from three weeks ago. Ms. Towns commented 248 individuals are currently hospitalized, of which 112 are in critical conditions and 52 are on ventilators. Ms. Towns explained these number are down due to the ongoing efforts to increase vaccinations in our community. She noted as a result 43% of eligible Greene County residents are now vaccinated, an increase from June to July. Ms. Towns noted despite the efforts of the Health Department there in an increase in the severity of cases in young people. She further noted in the month of July the hospitals treated 516 individuals between the ages of 0-11.

Ms. Towns acknowledge meeting with Councilwoman Romine to gain understanding and discuss productive solutions. She noted how they both would like to work together to see people healthy and thriving within the community. Ms. Towns noted when we do not know one another and don't have a personal relationship it is easy to make assumptions about another person.

Ms. Towns noted as part of her role as the Director of Health, she has a responsibility to build relationships with our community which starts with an introduction and getting to know someone. She provided insight into why she was inspired to join the world of public health by sharing her personal journey with health-related issues. She expressed to the community that arming ourselves with information about the vaccine from trusted and reliable sources is the best thing we can do to gain freedom from this virus. She noted the Department of Health is here to help and encourages people to reach out to their primary physicians.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson thanked Ms. Towns for sharing her honest and accurate information. He asked Ms. Towns if the City vaccine rate is higher than the County

vaccine rate. Ms. Towns noted it is approximately the same level. Mayor Pro Tem Simpson asked if the Health Department is working to help protect the children when they start school in the fall. Ms. Towns noted the Health Department is working closely with the schools in region to give them updated information as received and will monitor the situation as we go forward.

Councilman Lear asked about the effectiveness of the vaccines that were received in earlier in the year. Ms. Towns noted they are monitoring the research completed on this and will hopefully have more information by early fall.

Councilwoman Romine thanked Ms. Towns for reaching out to her and noted she looks forward to finding an understanding of how to keep the citizens safe in the community.

The following bills appeared on the agenda under Second 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.

Council Bill 2021-188. General Ordinance 6672 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Lear, Hardinger, Romine, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, Hosmer, Ollis, and McClure. Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

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.

Council Bill 2021-189. General Ordinance 6673 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Hardinger, Romine, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, and McClure. Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

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.

Council Bill 2021-190. General Ordinance 6674 was approved with the following vote:
Ayes: Romine, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, and McClure. Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

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.'

Council Bill 2021-191. General Ordinance 6675 was approved with the following vote:
McGull, Schilling, Simpson, Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, Romine, and McClure.
Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

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.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson complimented Fire Chief Pennington for this program and his hard work with responding to emergencies and with the vaccines.

Council Bill 2021-192. Special Ordinance 27548 was approved with the following vote:
Ayes: Schilling, Simpson, Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, Romine, McGull, and McClure. Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

The following bills appeared on the agenda under Resolutions.

Short- Term Rental; 1850 South Virginia Avenue

Sponsor: Simpson. Council Bill 2021-197.

A resolution granting a Short-Term Rental Type 2 Permit for the property located at 1850 South Virginia Avenue for the purpose of allowing the establishment of a Short-Term Rental Type 2 pursuant to Section 36-473 of the Land Development Code.

Daniel Neal, Senior City Planner gave an overview of the proposed. Mr. Neal noted this Short-Term Rental Type 2 is a home rented for periods of less than 30 consecutive days. He noted these properties are not owner- occupied or has an owner who rents the home for more than 95 days in a calendar year. He explained an affidavit signed by 55% of adjacent property owners, including those adjoining and across the street is needed to receive the permit. He noted this bill is to appeal that process due to the applicant unable to obtain the needed signatures.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson asked if the information and notes provided to Council came from the applicant or from staff. Mr. Neal noted those notes were verbally given and written by staff.

Councilman Hosmer asked if staff made a recommendation for this resolution or is this based on the ordinance as written. Mr. Neal answered this is based on the ordinance as written to apply for the permit. Councilman Hosmer clarified 60% of the neighbors have decline to sign in support. He expressed this would set a dangerous precedence knowing the neighbors are against this rental type.

Councilman McGull asked, depending on the outcome of this vote, if there was anything preventing the applicant from applying again in the future with the needed signatures. Mr. Neal noted the applicant can reapply and repeat the process to receive the permit later at a later date if the proposed does not pass.

Mary Pearson provided written comments in opposition to the proposed and were provided to councilmembers.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson noted in the approved past Short Term Rental Type 2 bills there were owners of surrounding houses the applicant could not reach due to various reasons. He expressed the difference with this bill, noting 60% of the residents had an opportunity to sign and chose not to show support.

Councilman Lear noted his support for short term rentals. He expressed it is an economic need but noted there is a process. Councilman Lear asked if this was to fail if there is a time the applicant would have to wait to reapply. Mr. Neal stated the ordinance does not specify a time so they can apply again.

Councilman McGull noted needing to look at the ordinance itself. He noted people should be vigilant with their rights.

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

Council Bill 2021-197 failed with the following vote: Ayes: None: Nays: Simpson, Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, Romine, McGull, Schilling, and McClure. Absent: None Abstain: None

**Coronavirus Aid,
Relief, and
Economic Security
Act Community
Development
Block Grant funds**

Sponsor: Hosmer. Council Bill 2021-198.

A resolution authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to apply for up to \$2 million of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act Community Development Block Grant funds from the State of Missouri Department of Economic Development to be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 impact on Springfield, and to address priority unmet needs such as providing community facilities and public services that address homelessness.

Bob Atchley, Senior City Planner gave an overview of the proposed. He noted this bill will allow the City to apply for C.A.R.E.S Act Community Development Block Grant funding through the State of Missouri Department of Economic Development. The C.A.R.E.S Act funding would allow the State to administer the second round of funding to the City if awarded. The Department of Economic Development (DED)

allows for proposals within five categories. Mr. Atchley further explained homelessness was cited as a critical issue which falls within those five categories. He noted data was taken from citizens which shows support for homeless services, youth transition housing and additional homeless shelters. Mr. Atchley explained based on this data staff want to focus the application process to address the need for additional emergency shelter beds and public services for the homeless.

Councilman Ollis asked for the location of the shelter beds. Mr. Atchley explained the department sent out request for proposals to local homeless service providers. He noted the providers have until August 18, 2021 to respond with proposals, which they will select based on what requests has been submitted. Councilman Ollis mentioned the feedback Council has received from different neighborhoods. He noted we need to be purposeful to not create an issue for neighborhoods and businesses by placing a shelter in an inappropriate place. He noted the details and the purpose on how we utilize this money is important.

Councilman Hosmer expressed a certain percentage of this grant should be utilized on mental health to help take care of the symptoms causing homelessness and stop the cycle.

Councilwoman Romine expressed Zone 1 has a huge problem. She mentioned the Hope Center provides a hand up. She expressed wanting to have a more concrete plan.

Councilman McGull expressed his support of the proposed. He expressed homeowner are frustrated. He noted issues seen in the past from the lack of strategy when looking at these services. He further noted there should be a strategy in place to ensure there will not be more issues in the future for these communities.

Councilman Lear expressed his support for the proposed. He noted working in a cold emergency shelter where they did not have enough beds to support those in need. He noted this money may not be enough to solve the problem but is a good place to start.

Councilwoman Hardinger noted homelessness is preventable. She expressed housing is not the only solution to homelessness and this issue looks different today than it did ten years ago. She noted we should reach out and see what other communities are doing to help those in this position.

Councilman Schilling asked for the percentage of homeless local individuals versus drifters from other regions. Mr. Atchley was unsure and referred the question to Community Partnership of the Ozarks (CPO).

Jason Gage, City Manager noted he is currently looking to schedule a full comprehensive overview with CPO to address what activities have occurred in the community, what services are available, and what strategies can be utilized.

Jason Griesmer, Acting Director of Planning and Development noted in past meetings there was discussion of an allotment of home funds from Department of Housing and

Urban Development. He further notes if successful with these funds, it would be in addition to the funds allotted and would be utilized towards homeless services.

Amanda Stadler, CPO Coordinator spoke in support of the proposed. She noted the goal is to connect the homeless with safety and affordable housing. She noted the need for emergency shelter beds was in the process prior to the pandemic. She noted a community survey was completed by the Alliance to End Homelessness which showed access to a shelter was the number two need for homeless individuals in the community, with the first need being affordable housing. She noted on any given night approximately 500 people are experiencing homelessness through the community. She expressed the issues they are having with the limitations of funding.

Meleah Spencer, CEO of The Kitchen Inc, spoke in support for the proposed. She noted all the progress they were able to make with the new location of The Kitchen Inc which opened in 2018. She explained the design of the location which allows for them to provide a safer environment from COVID-19. She expressed the limitations they are experienced with the lack of permanent housing to help those in need.

Councilman Hosmer asked if these individuals are from the Springfield area. Ms. Spencer noted these individuals are from different areas. Councilman Hosmer asked what the probable cause of these persons to become homeless. Ms. Spencer noted these individuals have different stories. She noted some stories involve not being able to afford the medications, housing, or medical appointments they need. She noted Springfield is known as a caring community and we do not have enough affordable housing to help these individuals. Ms. Spencer noted programs like The Kitchen Inc are transitional programs that struggle finding permanent solutions due to lack of funding.

Councilman Ollis asked for a description of their aggregation of services; additionally, what should be done to minimize issues when attempting to fix problems. Ms. Spencer noted more affordable housing would allow for those individuals to focus on their mental health.

Councilwoman Hardinger asked what the increase of needs since the pandemic has started and how are these funds going to help the Kitchen fill the gap. Ms. Spencer noted she would be able to move individuals through the transitional emergency shelter if there was more affordable permanent housing available.

Kelly Harris spoke in support for the proposed. She noted she was with Ozark Alliance to End Homelessness Executive Board and Safe to Sleep women's shelter. Ms. Harris noted the lack of affordable housing for those on fixed incomes. She noted individuals that are experiencing homelessness should not be stereotyped. She further noted the current wait to get affordable housing is now over a year.

Steven Sexton provided comments requesting Council Bill 2021-198 be tabled. This information was provided to Council.

There being no further appearances, the public hearing was declared closed.

Council Bill 2021-198. Resolution 10592 was approved with the following vote:
Ayes: Hosmer, Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, and McClure. Nays:
Romine. Absent: None Abstain: None

**Declaring
vaccinations as the
leading prevention
strategy to end
COVID-19.**

Council Bill 2021-213 (McGull, Hardinger, & Hosmer)

A resolution declaring that vaccination is the leading prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic and should be strongly encouraged for all eligible individuals, and, in conjunction with vaccinations, other mitigation strategies have shown to be effective in reducing transmission of COVID-19 and should continue to be applied to minimize the impact of COVID-19 in our community.

Jason Gage, City Manager gave an overview of the proposed. He noted the primary emphasis of this bill noted vaccinations are the best solution to defeat COVID-19. He clarified this bill is an encouragement and not a binding action. He then transitioned to Councilman McGull for further explanation.

Councilman McGull expressed this resolution is conceived out of love for his fellow citizens. He noted it encourages eligible individuals to get vaccinated while respecting individual choice. He further noted this is not a mandate nor a mandatory mask ordinance. Councilman McGull noted this resolution is advocating for individuals to educate themselves on COVID-19 information so we can get to the 70% vaccination rate.

Lisa Meeks spoke in opposition of the proposed. She expressed concerns for misinformation going into the community. She further expressed individuals should question the information they receive.

Gerald Keim spoke in opposition of the proposed. He noted his concerns about masking and the lack of correct information about vaccines given to the public. Councilman Hosmer asked for clarification of organizations Mr. Keim felt were not providing accurate information. Mr. Keim expressed he thinks the Greene County Health Department, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Institute of Health, among others, aren't telling the truth, and by default, are lying for financial gain. Councilman Hosmer expressed his disagreement and noted it is Council's job to follow the facts as presented by medical professionals.

George Barankovich spoke in support of masking. He expressed the difficulties of his experiences in the armed forces and how masks helped him during that time.

Heather Deitz spoke in opposition of the proposed. She expressed her displeasure regarding on actions taken by the City Council, the City Manager, and the Greene County Health Department.

Meike Aton spoke in opposition of the proposed. She noted Springfield is divided into masking versus unmasked individuals. She expressed her opinion on why this had become an issue through the community.

Swayne Loftis spoke in opposition of the proposed. He noted the importance of correct information presented to the community about COVID-19. He expressed his opinion on keeping the facts in mind when making decisions.

James Blaine, family physician in Springfield, spoke in support of the proposed. He noted science is not a destination, it's a journey. He expressed his support of the medical information given by other experts. He noted the dangers COVID-19 poses to children. Mayor Pro Tem Simpson asked Mr. Blaine how long he has practiced medicine in Springfield. Mr. Blaine noted for over 40 years. Mayor Pro Tem Simpson asked in Mr. Blaine's expert opinion if the World Health Organization and the CDC are being dishonest about COVID-19 and the vaccine. Mr. Blaine expressed he does not believe so and unfortunately there is a lot of misinformation going around. He noted he is the Vice President of the Missouri State Medical Association and part of the Executive Council of the Greene County Medical Society. Mayor Pro Tem Simpson asked what type of misinformation Mr. Blaine has experienced when treating individuals. Mr. Blaine noted one misconception is doctors are paid more for diagnosing a patient with COVID-19. He further expressed this as a misunderstanding and provided clarifying information based on the science.

Frank Gillham spoke in opposition of the proposed. He expressed the difficulties he has had in the community with masking and his personal observations of individuals dealing with COVID-19.

Councilman Hosmer expressed masking helps and the vaccine is safe. He noted the biggest issue is the children. He further noted schools will be in session soon and we should focus on their safety and health.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson noted Council has a responsibility to the people of the community. He expressed the importance of accurate information and respecting those who work to save lives. He further expressed his objections to citizens wearing yellow stars and comparing being asked to follow CDC guidelines as similar to the plight of Holocaust victims.

Councilman Schilling noted Springfield being in the news around the world. He read a quote expressing the importance to do the right thing to keep our community safe.

Mayor McClure articulated his support for the proposed. He noted the solution to fighting this deadly disease is vaccination. He further noted vaccines are safe, effective, and needed for immunity and protection. Mayor McClure expressed those who choose not to get vaccinated are putting others at risk, including loved ones. He noted all the actions taken by City Council dating back to the origin of this disease, was to get the needed supplies for eligible individuals in the community. He further noted health care workers and hospitals are overwhelmed. He noted the City of Springfield is grateful for the help received from the State of Missouri to help combat this disease.

There being no further appearances, the public hearing was declared closed.

Council Bill 2021-213. Resolution 10593 was approved with the following vote:
Ayes: Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, Hosmer, and McClure. Nays:
Romine. None Absent: None Abstain: None

Mayor McClure asked Ms. Cotter to read Council Bill 2021-199 and Council Bill 2021-200 together.

EMERGENCY BILLS

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

GRANTS

AMENDED BILLS

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

Rezoning 3482 and 3839 South State Highway FF and 4003 West Farm Road 168

Sponsor: Schilling. Council Bill 2021-199.

A general ordinance amending Section 1-9 of the Springfield City Code, 'City Limits;' and amending Section 46-1 of the Springfield City Code, 'Boundaries of wards, precincts and council zones;' for the purpose of annexing approximately 98 acres of private property and right-of-way generally located at 3482 and 3839 South State Highway FF and 4003 West Farm Road 168, referenced as Annexation A-4-2021, into the City of Springfield.

Rezoning approximately 73 acres of property; 3482 and 3839 South State Highway FF; 4003 West Farm Road 168

Sponsor: Schilling. Council Bill 2021-200.

A general ordinance amending the Springfield Land Development Code, Section 36-306, 'Official zoning map and rules for interpretation,' by rezoning approximately 73 acres of property generally located at 3482 and 3839 South State Highway FF from County R1, Suburban Residence District, to City R-SF, Single Family Residential District; rezoning approximately 17 acres of property generally located at 4003 West Farm Road 168 from County C-2, General Commercial District, to City GR, General Retail District; and adopting an updated Official Zoning Map. (Staff and Planning and Zoning Commission both recommend approval.) (By: Hoover Brothers Farms Inc., Rick Hoover Properties and Hometown Commons, LLC; 3482 & 3839 South State Highways FF and 4003 West Farm Road 168; Z- 17- 2021)

Brendan Griesemer, Acting Director of Planning and Development provided an overview of Council Bill 2021-199 and Council Bill 2021-200.

Brendan Griesemer, Acting Director of Planning and Development gave an overview of the proposed. He noted this is a voluntary annexation at the property owner's request to join the City. He explained approximately 90 acres of private property and 8 acres of City right-of-way would be impacted. Mr. Griesemer noted annexations enhance governmental efficiency through rational and simplified boundaries. He

further noted findings for the land is consistence with the comprehensive plan and would allow for commercial development. He explained this would also allow for continued growth and development by maximizing use of existing resources while minimizing cost to citizens. Mr. Griesemer gave an overview of proposed Council Bill 2021-200. He noted this project would be appropriate for medium-intensity retail, office, or housing southwest. He further noted a traffic impact study is not required.

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

**Rezoning
approximately 1.84
acres of property;
2000 East
Commercial Street**

Sponsor: Romine. Council Bill 2021-201.

A general ordinance amending the Springfield Land Development Code, Section 36-306, 'Official zoning map and rules for interpretation,' by rezoning approximately 1.84 acres of property generally located at 2000 East Commercial Street from GM, General Manufacturing, to HM, Heavy Manufacturing; and adopting an updated Official Zoning Map. (Staff and Planning and Zoning Commission both recommend approval.) (By: Superior Industrial Solutions Inc.; 2000 East Commercial Street; z-15-2021)

Brendan Griesemer, Acting Director of Planning and Development gave an overview of the proposed. He explained the rezoning is near the intersection of Commercial Street and Glenstone. Mr. Griesemer notes the comprehensive plan shows this is appropriate for medium intensity retail, office or housing. He notes this is currently partially zoned for manufacturing. He explains the transportation plan noting a traffic impact study is not needed.

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

**Rezoning
approximately 1
acre of property
generally located
at 1136 and 1144
East Sunshine
Street and 1816,
1820, and 1826
South Florence
Avenue**

Sponsor: Simpson. Council Bill 2021-202.

A general ordinance amending the Springfield Land Development Code, Section 36-306, 'Official zoning map and rules for interpretation,' by rezoning approximately 1 acre of property generally located at 1136 and 1144 East Sunshine Street and 1816, 1820, and 1826 South Florence Avenue from R-SF, Single-Family Residential District, to O-1, Office District, subject to certain conditions; and adopting an updated Official Zoning Map. (Staff and Planning and Zoning Commission both recommend approval.) (By: B.J. Marsh ETAL, Joni M. Marsh (Jackson) Monte M. Marsh; 1136 & 1144 E. Sunshine Street and 1816, 1820 and 1826 S. Florence Avenue; Z-16-2021)

Brendan Griesemer, Acting Director of Planning and Development gave an overview of the proposed. He explained this pertains to a zoning request near the intersection of National and Sunshine. He noted the comprehensive plan shows this is appropriate for medium- intensity retail, office, or housing. He noted a traffic impact study is not required. He further noted there would be no access to Sunshine from the proposed area. He noted the property along Florence will require a 15-foot-wide landscaped area with plantings.

Councilman Schilling asked about the loss of trees on the property and what the code says about trees on developing property. Mr. Griesemer noted there is not a count of trees, but the developer can leave the trees in this area. He noted there are no requirements for a buffer line along Sunshine or National. He further noted at this time there is no type of preservation ordinance for these types of property.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson asked for the proposed use of this property. Mr. Griesemer noted he is unaware and would have to defer to the developer.

Councilman McGull asked what neighborhood association this zoning change would affect. Mr. Griesemer noted it used to be Sunshine Holland and University Heights.

Councilman Ollis asked for clarification if the proposed passes, would it allow this area to be O-1. Mr. Griesemer noted that was correct. He noted with the O-1 zoning is designed to be adjacent to a residential area.

Councilman Hosmer asked if there was neighborhood opposition. Mr. Griesemer noted there was not a residential representative at the Planning and Zoning meeting. Councilman Hosmer asked if there are plans to make an access from National to Florence. Mr. Griesemer noted that would be a question for the developer.

Councilman Lear noted if the developer decided to take out the trees in the proposed area there would be no recourse. Mr. Griesemer noted it would be up to the developer.

Rod Schaffer, representative for Cox Health spoke in favor of the proposed. He explained how Cox was approached by the owner of this property in April. He notes without the zone change they cannot build a clinic with the required parking. Councilman Hosmer asked about access between Florence and National. Mr. Schaffer expressed the parking lots would access both Florence and National. He noted the traffic going north on National would be restricted. He further noted concerns about the limited access to the area and the possibility of poor navigation if not executed properly. Mayor Pro Tem Simpson thanked Mr. Schaffer for all his company does for the community. Councilman Schilling asked about preserving the trees in the area despite needing the space for parking. Mr. Schaffer noted it would be difficult to do so because it is a forest in the proposed area.

Mindy Spitz spoke in opposition of the proposed. She noted this area contains mature trees. She expressed her opinion of the importance of maintaining these green spaces.

Dane Seiler spoke in favor of the proposed. He noted information discussed during neighborhood meetings regarding the proposed.

Sean Schoonover spoke in opposition of the proposed. He expressed his concerns with the dangers of adding more commercial traffic. He expressed the need for a traffic study in the area due to the changes of the proposed.

Councilman Hosmer asked why there is not a traffic study of the area. Dan Smith, Public Works Director expressed this is just a rezoning proposal so there is no need to do so at this time.

Councilwoman Romine noted her support for a traffic study in the area due to the concerns of safety.

Councilman Ollis asked what type of establishment would be considered an activity zone. Jason Gage, City Manager noted this area is known as an activity center, but it is zoned as O-1. He further noted Cox Health would have a lower impact on the area than a fast-food restaurant.

Rob Haik, representative for Cox Health noted his company chooses to develop in areas to help the community. He noted this site is for another Cox Health clinic. He expressed the priority at this time is to save lives by getting these facilities up and running to meet the growing health needs of the community.

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

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

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Sponsors: Simpson, Lear, McGull & Hardinger. Council Bill 2021-203.

A special ordinance amending the budget of the Springfield-Greene County Health Department for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 in the amount of \$8,000,000 to appropriate funds from the City's Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, established by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 ("ARPA"), to provide critical services, staffing, supplies, and support for operations for the COVID-19 response of the City not covered by other federal sources. (The Council ARPA Review Committee voted to recommend this appropriation to City Council.)

Katie Towns, Director of Health gave an overview of the proposed. She noted the expenses experienced over the past year due to COVID-19. She further noted these funds would be utilized towards the projected expenses for the remainder of this year. She expressed the proposed would be utilized to continue contact tracing, COVID-19 investigations, on-going testing needs, staffing and other logistics for COVID-19 clinics through the community.

Councilman Lear asked for clarification on mandated reporting to the State. Ms. Towns noted per the state guidelines, the Health Department is required to report over 250 types of infectious diseases. She noted since COVID-19 falls in that category, the Health Department is required to investigate ways to stop and slow the spread of the disease and the possibility to infect others. Ms. Towns further noted it is a requirement of the Health Department to report to the State their findings, but it is not funded by the State.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson asked if additional funding is found for this purpose would we be able to reallocate the remaining to other needs. Jason Gage, City Manager expressed the money could be reallocated if necessary.

Councilman Hosmer asked about the process of discussing the ARPA funds with the community. Jason Gage, City Manager expressed the process was expedited due the immediate needs of the Health Department. He noted going forward the comprehensive recommendation will be brought before the Council.

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

Clerk's Note: Councilman Hosmer left the Chamber at 10:05 PM.

**Commercial Street
Tax Increment
Financing Special
Allocation Fund**

Sponsor: Lear. Council Bill 2021-204.

A special ordinance amending the budget of the City of Springfield for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 in the amount of \$290,000 for the purpose of approving expenditures from the Commercial Street Tax Increment Financing Special Allocation Fund for certain public improvement projects within the Commercial Street Tax Increment Financing District; authorizing the expenditure of \$365,000 from previously-budgeted Public Works funds as cost-sharing for these improvements; and amending the Capital Improvements Program to add the funded projects.

Olivia Hough, Senior City Planner gave an overview of the proposed. She noted background information on the Commercial Street Tax Increment Financing, TIF. She further noted only public improvement project identified in the redevelopment plan may be funded with TIF Revenues. Ms. Hough expressed the current priorities of the proposed would include parking, directional signage, public art, and footbridge plaza design.

Councilman Schilling asked if the state holders get another chance to look at the final designs. Ms. Hough noted this would be seen once more as well as public input.

Councilman Ollis expressed support for the work to be completed in this area.

Mary Collette provided comments in support to Council Bill 2021-204 which were provided to councilmembers.

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

**Enhanced
Enterprise Zone**

Sponsor: Hosmer. Council Bill 2021-205.

A general ordinance amending the Fee Schedule for certain City services as provided in the Springfield City Code by adding fees for the Enhanced Enterprise Zone economic development incentive and amending the fees for the Industrial Development Bond economic development incentive.

Sarah Kerner, Director of Economic Development gave an overview of the proposed. She noted the Enhanced Enterprise Zone program encourages business development and job creation by granting real property tax abatement to business enterprises that locate or expand within designated enhanced enterprise zones.

Councilman Lear asked how many of these are completed a year. Ms. Kerner expressed less than once a year, but they maintain the information for the duration of the project.

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

**Department of
Economic Vitality**

Sponsor: Ollis. Council Bill 2021-206.

A special ordinance amending the budget for the Department of Economic Vitality for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 in the amount of \$75,000 to appropriate a portion of the General Fund carryover funds to finance a blight study and redevelopment plan for the area within and surrounding the Grant Avenue Parkway zoning district.

Sarah Kerner, Director of Economic Development gave an overview of the proposed. She noted the goal of the Grant Avenue Parkway plan and Zoning District is to promote reinvestment and redevelopment along the parkway and into the surrounding neighborhoods. She further noted it would allow a broader range of permitted uses and permitted height and density. She expressed the proposed is to fund a blight study requested by Councilman Hosmer in response to his concerns about poor conditions surrounding the Grant Avenue Parkway.

Sally Hargis spoke in support of the proposed. She noted this project an investment for future growth in the area. She expressed her appreciation of the design standards that help this project remain unique by creating a quality place for those in the community.

Andrew Doolittle spoke in support of the proposed. He expressed the blight study would increase the likelihood of a successful parkway future.

Cameron LaBarr spoke in support of the proposed. He expressed blight studies create more tax revenue when redeveloping an area. He noted substandard housing leads to unsafe pedestrian interactions along the parkway and makes it unappealing to those visiting. He further advocated for a wide study of the area. Councilman Ollis asked with properties you own in the area, what is the financial feasibility without a blight study or an incentive to make the projects work. Mr. LaBarr expressed the difficulties he has faced in the area. He noted the current project is not feasible due to high construction cost.

Councilman Ollis asked if the proposed would allow for a consultant to look at additional areas that would need attention. Sarah Kerner, Director of Economic Development clarified this ordinance would be looking at properties in and around the Grant Avenue Parkway district.

Debbie Shantz Hart spoke in support of the proposed. She expressed the blight study is needed to help incentivize private investors and developers in the area.

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

**Fieldhouse
Facility Project**

Sponsor: Lear. Council Bill 2021-207.

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to enter into an agreement with the owners of the property generally located at 2235 West Kingsley Street known herein as the Fieldhouse Facility Project, to purchase the real property and improvements at this location, said property to be purchased with the Special Obligation Improvement Bonds, Series 2021, which is requested of City Council in companion Council Bill 2021-208, with the appropriate budget adjustment requested in said companion council bill; and authorizing certain other documents and actions in connection therewith; and declaring an emergency.

Bob Belote, Director of Parks and Recreation gave an overview of the proposed. He noted the facility is in the Chesterfield Park corridor. Mr. Belote presented background information about the Fieldhouse Sport Center. He expressed this move in ready facility would serve as a critical indoor sports infrastructure for our community and its athletes. He notes this is an opportunity for athletics in the Parks' Sports Division & Community Sports Development Program, joint programs with Chesterfield Family Center, Concession & Catering services to produce revenue in the community. He noted this facility is the only remaining multi-court facility in the Springfield community which has room for future facility growth while fostering sports tourism.

Councilman Ollis asked if the Parks Board would be able to maintain this facility at a level to continually attract sports tournaments and events. Mr. Belote noted the budget will have a dedicated capital repair account in anticipation of those needs. Councilman Ollis asked if Greene County was approached to participate in support of the proposed. Mr. Belote noted Greene County is currently in the process of reviewing the proposed in addition to other inquires.

Jonathan Gartin noted he would also address Council Bill 2021-208. He spoke in opposition of the proposed. He expressed his belief ARPA monies should not be used to fund the proposed and raised concerns regarding the City following guidelines.

Mayor McClure noted the City of Springfield has 3 years to spend the funds received. He further noted all guidelines to spend the ARPA monies are being followed.

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

**Special Obligation
Improvement
Bonds; American
Rescue Plan Act of
2021**

Sponsor: Ollis. Council Bill 2021-208.

A special ordinance authorizing and directing the issuance, sale and delivery by the City of Springfield, Missouri, of Special Obligation Improvement Bonds (Fieldhouse Facility Project), Series 2021, in a principal amount not to exceed \$5,200,000 for the purpose of providing funds to pay costs related to the acquisition of the Fieldhouse Sports center and adjacent property; appropriating \$2,000,000 of the City's Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, established by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 ("ARPA") for this project; amending the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget of the City in the amount of \$7,500,000; authorizing and approving certain documents in connection with the issuance of the Bonds; authorizing certain other documents and actions in connection therewith; and declaring an emergency.

David Holtmann, Director of Finance gave an overview of the proposed. He noted the City can use ARPA funds for revenue loss. He noted the Parks Department lost over \$5.2 million the past year due to COVID-19. He explained the Parks Department is proposing to utilize \$2 million of the City's Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, established by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to recoup part of these losses.

Councilman Lear noted staff have done their due diligence to ensure the proposed falls within the interim ranks. Mr. Holtmann noted the proposed follows guidelines for governmental uses due to COVID-19 revenue loss for the Parks Board. Councilman Lear expressed his support for this project. He noted this project was brought forward to Council without recommendation of the APRA Review Committee due to the time sensitiveness of making this purchase He further noted as a member of the committee they are looking at the criteria and how to package these monies to bring to Council. He expressed having concerns allocating ARPA funds for the proposed. Councilman Lear inquired what effect would happen if he chose to amend the proposed from utilizing ARPA funds to using the General Funds carryover. Mr. Holtmann explained the cost increase from the General Funds. He noted our current carry over balance is over \$5 million.

Councilman Lear made a motion to amend Council Bill 2021-208. Rhonda Lewsader, City Attorney asked for clarity regarding his motion. Councilman Lear expressed his intent to amend the language throughout the proposed wherever it notes funds would derive from ARPA monies, and instead have funds coming from the City's General Fund. Mayor Pro Tem seconded this motion.

Mayor McClure asked Ms. Lewsader what the procedural impact is from this amendment. Ms. Lewsader noted under the Charter, the bill will not be held over for a 3rd Council meeting, but the public hearing will be open until the next Council meeting.

Councilman Ollis asked what this amendment does regarding any plans the City had for the carryover funds. Jason Gage, City Manager noted this would deplete the current funds not including funds from this fiscal year.

Councilman McGull asked what the overall purpose of amending the proposed. Councilman Lear expressed when the Committee was formed to review ARPA funds, staff were provided with a criterion to follow for recommendations. He noted his support for this project, but due to timing, this was not able to be filtered through the selection process. He further noted an alternative way to fund this project without utilizing ARPA funds.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson noted as part of the ARPA Committee, the process for the proposed was expedited due to time sensitivity of the matter.

Councilman Ollis asked what the limitations of the different funding sources are for the proposed. Jason Gage, City Manager noted ARPA funds allow for broad discretion based off a formula for lost revenue. General carryover funds do not utilize that formula and allows for a more comprehensive use.

Motion to Amend Council Bill 2021-208 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Lear, Hardinger, Romine, McGull, Schilling, and Simpson. Nays: Ollis, and McClure. Absent: Hosmer. Abstain: None

An opportunity was given for citizens to express their views. There being no appearances, the public hearing was declared closed; however, a public hearing regarding the amended bill will continue at the August 23, 2021 City Council meeting.

**Agreement
between the City
of Springfield and
Springfield R-12;
Crossing Guard
Program**

Sponsor: McGull. Council Bill 2021-209.

A special ordinance authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Springfield and the School District of Springfield R-12 to share the costs of a third-party vendor to operate a school crossing guard program inside the city limits of Springfield.

Collin Quigley, Deputy City Manager gave an overview of the proposed. He noted this would allow for a third party to pay for the crossing guard program through the 2021-2022 school year.

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

**Springfield City
Code Chapter 74,
'Nuisance and
Housing Code,'
Article II,
'Enforcement,'
Section 74-38**

Sponsor: Hardinger. Council Bill 2021-210.

A general ordinance amending Springfield City Code Chapter 74, 'Nuisance and Housing Code,' Article II, 'Enforcement,' Section 74-38, 'Costs, assessments, and nuisance-abatement lien,' to enhance the effect of special tax bills issued under said chapter.

Dwayne Shmel, Director of Building Development Services gave an overview of the proposed. He noted when the City abates a nuisance on behalf of a property owner, they utilize a special tax bill. He noted the proposed will allow for additional language for a defendant to demonstrate the City's proceedings were not regular and proper.

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

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

Appeared

Isreal Reel addressed City Council about issues with police and homelessness. He provided items for the Council to review. He expressed his frustrations and concerns for his neighborhood. Councilman McGull and Councilman Ollis thanked Mr. Reel for speaking for his community.

Tim Havens addressed City Council about homelessness. He expressed his frustrations with how the City has approached the subject. He noted this is a cycle and suggested the City looking into Housing First programs such as Eden Village. He further noted the positives of these programs.

Clifford VanNatta addressed City Council. He expressed his frustrations about the homeless in the community. He noted the amount of time and money spent on his property due to influx of homeless.

Michael Hasty addressed City Council about crime. He expressed we must acknowledge Springfield has a problem with crime. He spoke about his experience and engagement with the community. He expressed his appreciation of the Police Department and the Health Department.

The following items appeared on the agenda under New Business.

Recommended

The Mayor recommends the following appointment to the Springfield- Greene County Public Library Board: Christopher Bozarth, with term to expire July 01, 2022.

As per RSMo. 109.230 (4), City records that are on file in the City Clerk's office and have met the retention schedule will be destroyed in compliance with the guidelines established by the Secretary of State's office.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MISCELLANEOUS

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

**Preliminary Plat of
Cresthaven Park**

Sponsor: Romine. Council Bill 2021-211.

A special ordinance authorizing the Director of Planning and Development to accept the dedication of public streets and easements to the City of Springfield, as shown on the Preliminary Plat of Cresthaven Park, generally located at 3221 West Kearney Street, upon the applicant filing and recording a final plat that substantially conforms to the

preliminary plat; and authorizing the City Clerk to sign the final plat upon compliance with all the terms of this Ordinance. (Staff recommends that City Council accept the public streets and easements.)

**Preliminary Plat of
Springfield Plaza
Phase 4**

Sponsor: Schilling. Council Bill 2021-212.

A special ordinance authorizing the Director of Planning and Development to accept the dedication of public streets and easements to the City of Springfield, as shown on the Preliminary Plat of Springfield Plaza Phase 4, generally located at 3900 West Sunshine Street, upon the applicant filing and recording a final plat that substantially conforms to the preliminary plat; and authorizing the City Clerk to sign the final plat upon compliance with all the terms of this Ordinance. (Staff recommends that City Council accept the public streets and easements.)

CONSENT AGENDA ONE READING BILLS

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

**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.

Council Bill 2021-193. Special Ordinance 27549 was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, Romine, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, Hosmer, and McClure. Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Confirmed

Confirm the following appointment to the Public Housing Authority: Lynne Mitchell, with term to expire April 11, 2023.

Confirmed

Confirm the following appointment to the Tree City USA Citizen Advisory Committee: Kevin Harrell, with term to expire December 21, 2023.

Confirmed

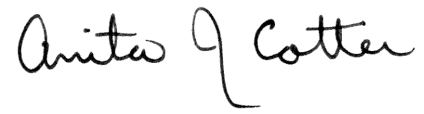
Confirm the following appointment to the Springfield- Greene County Public Library Board: David Yancey, with term to expire July 1, 2024.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA.

Motion to Adjourn

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson moved to Adjourn. Councilman McGull seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote. Ayes. Ollis, Lear, Hardinger, Romine, McGull, Schilling, Simpson, and McClure. Nays. None. Absent. Hosmer. Abstain. None. The meeting adjourned at 11:35 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 'J'.

Anita J. Cotter, CMC/MRCC
City Clerk