

June 03, 2013

News Release

For Immediate Release

Public meeting on City Charter tonight at CU

City Councilman Doug Burlison invites members of the public to participate in a second public meeting on potential changes to the City Charter, at 6 p.m., Tuesday, June 4, 2013, at the City Utilities Auditorium, 301 E. Central.

Burlison is a member of City Council's Plans and Policies Committee, which will take another look at the possibilities in a yet-to-be-scheduled meeting.

What is the Springfield City Charter?

Springfield operates under a Council/Manager form of government, first adopted when voters approved the City's Charter on March 17, 1953.

Under the City Charter, the Mayor must run for re-election every two years while Council members serve four-year terms. The City Manager, City Clerk and Internal Auditor are the three City employees directly under the supervision of the City Council. The City Manager is the chief executive and administrative officer and is responsible for the administrative affairs of the city.

The City Charter addresses and/or accounts for the following issues, along with many others:

- The power of citizens to propose ordinances through initiatives and referendums
- The authority to impose license taxes and regulations
- Duties and powers of the city and city officers such as the Mayor and City Manager
- The establishment of various administrative departments and boards such as Police, Fire, Public Health and Welfare, Airport, and other entities

The Springfield City Charter is available in its entirety at: www.springfieldmo.gov/charter.

A video explaining the history of the charter is available at:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=6UfUR_eSesc.

What changes to the Springfield City Charter have recently been proposed and adopted?

On Aug. 7, 2012 three amendments were proposed to the Springfield City Charter, two of which were adopted.

- **Amendment 1:** Proposed the elimination of the February primary election for City Council. A previously adopted state bill already called for the elimination of February elections that didn't involve bond issues, but the adoption of this amendment kept City and State laws aligned.

- **Amendment 2:** Required any group proposing an initiative to get a legal opinion and fiscal summary from the City of Springfield and grants City Council the authority to delete or amend any invalid language within the petition. The amendment also sought to establish a deadline that would give any group proposing an initiative one year to collect the required signatures.
- **Amendment 3:** This amendment aimed to increase the number of signatures needed for initiative petitions from ten percent of the votes cast in the previous municipal election (approximately 1,200) to seven percent of all registered voters in the city (approximately 7,500).

2012 Election Results for Proposed Charter Amendments

Ballot Measure	Votes in Favor	Votes in Opposition	Result
Charter Amendment 1	12,112 (59.07%)	8,391 (40.93%)	Adopted
Charter Amendment 2	9,869 (49.31%)	10,146 (50.69%)	Failed
Charter Amendment 3	10,622 (52.27%)	9,693 (47.73%)	Adopted

Want to participate in the discussion?

Public Meeting

6 p.m., Tuesday, June 4, 2013

City Utilities Training Center Earl L. Barkley Auditorium on the main floor
301 E. Central

The meeting will be live streamed at cityview.springfieldmo.gov.

Live coverage on the City's Twitter feed twitter.com/cityofsgf will also allow citizens to Tweet in questions and comments being fed into the public meeting. E-mail questions may be sent that evening to city@springfieldmo.gov. Following the meeting, video capturing the discussion will be posted at springfieldmo.gov.

For more information, contact City Councilman Doug Burlison at dburlison@springfieldmo.gov, or Cora Scott, Director of Public Information & Civic Engagement, at 417-380-3352.