

August 18, 2011

News Release

For Immediate Release

Mayor Outlines Procedure for E-Verify Public Hearing

On Monday Aug. 22, City Council will hold a first reading and public hearing on the E-verify initiative petition at its regularly scheduled meeting.

Following rules set forth in the Springfield City Charter, two bills are on the agenda. The first, Council Bill 2011-193, is to adopt the petition as proposed. The second, Council Bill 2011-194, is to send the matter to voters on a citywide ballot. Council will hold a single public hearing on both of these bills together. Under the Charter, Council must either adopt the initiative as is, without changes, or send it to voters. This same process was used recently for the citywide smoking ban proposal.

Because a large turnout and many speakers are expected at the public hearing, Mayor Jim O'Neal is proposing to ask Council to suspend normal rules and limit each speaker to three minutes instead of five minutes. The rules of Council meetings are determined by the Mayor and Council members. Mayor O'Neal's stated goal is to complete the public hearing on this issue in approximately 90 minutes, and hear all viewpoints on the matter. The Mayor also intends to limit Council's questions to two minutes per speaker.

Speakers must sign up with the City Clerk to speak to an issue on the agenda. Citizens are encouraged to contact the Clerk's Office before 5 p.m., Friday, Aug. 19 to place their name on the list of speakers. Speakers may sign up in person at the Council meeting up until the proceedings begin at 6:30 p.m., Monday, but because so many are expected to speak, it is advisable to sign up in advance.

Citizens who wish to speak can contact the City Clerk's office at (417) 864-1650, or in person on the fourth floor of the Busch Municipal Building, 840 Boonville Ave.