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News Release

For Immediate Release

Citizens' Sales Tax Oversight Committee Issues Clean Report

The Citizens' Sales Tax Oversight Committee (CSTOC) gave another "clean" report to City Council, indicating that the City is handling the various sales tax revenues appropriately.

CSTOC was formed at the suggestion of a citizen in January 2010. The original purpose of the Committee was to provide oversight of the 3/4-cent Police-Fire Pension Sales Tax to ensure that 100% of the revenues received by the City from this tax are deposited into the City's Police-Fire Pension Fund as promised. The scope of the Committee was later expanded to include oversight of the 1/8-cent Transportation Sales Tax, the 1/4-cent Capital Improvement Sales Tax, and the 5% Hotel/Motel Sales Tax.

"During each of our meetings, we have continued to receive brief, yet thorough project reports from City leadership on the projects funded by the city sales tax revenue for which we have oversight. After each project update, the City officials have answered the questions of the committee members very clearly and in detail," said Patricia R. Pearson, Citizens' Sales Tax Oversight Committee Chair.

"Our committee believes that the reports confirm a good faith effort in collection, the accounting, and expenditures of each of the funds generated by these sales taxes. We find City leadership to be proactive by creating several scenarios offering solutions prior to a potential problem."

Other action at tonight's City Council Meeting:

A [food distribution bill](#) (pdf) requiring notification when handing out food in downtown Springfield tabled and sent back to Park Central Square Task Force. Councilman Craig Fishel asking Task Force Members to work with groups providing free food to reach a compromise by Jan. 30, 2015.

A [ban on skateboarding downtown](#) (pdf) and on Commercial Street, passes 8-1, with Councilman Doug Burlison in opposition.

A [bill prohibiting tobacco on Park Central Square](#) (pdf), passes 7-2, with Councilmen Doug Burlison and Mike Carroll dissenting.

[Amended panhandling bill](#) (pdf) passes. Councilwoman Cindy Rushefsky's amendment eliminated proposed restrictions on passive panhandling, except for areas within five feet of a curb edge and in the median or shoulders of roadways. The ordinance does ban aggressive panhandling within 20 feet in any direction, of any entrance or exit, to any office or office



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