

Minutes of Springfield City Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 5:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers

Mayor Davlin called the Special Meeting of the City Council to Order at approximately 5:30 p.m. All were invited to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Clerk Tumulty called the roll of City Council members.

PRESENT: Alderman Edwards, Simpson, Kunz, Lesko, Cahnman, Mahoney, Cimarossa, Theilen, Dove, Griffin & Mayor Davlin.

ABSENT: None

The First Item On The Agenda Was No. 2008-935, "Annual Appropriation Ordinance Of The City Of Springfield, Illinois, For The Fiscal Year Beginning March 1, 2009, And Ending February 28, 2010." Ald. Cimarossa Moved To Place Agenda No. 2008-935 On Final Passage. Ald. Simpson Seconded. Discussion followed.

Mayor Davlin thanked everyone for attending the special meeting. He provided the aldermen with a document entitled "Discretionary Walk-Down." That document is attached to these minutes and incorporated herein by reference. Mayor Davlin went on to explain the document. He further stated that before starting this process, his staff and directors had whittled down discretionary spending such as salaries, jobs, human resources. There are other non-discretionary items such as bond payments, lease payments, set payments, etc., that must be made. His staff had already cut the budget by a total of 8.7% before the budget was presented to aldermen.

The total proposed budget for FY2010 is \$117,227,715.00. Going through that document in increments of \$1,000,000.00, the Walk Down reflects what services and staff would have to be cut in order to meet any proposed amendment to the budget. Mayor Davlin stated that true savings are not realized until approximately \$4,000,000 is cut from the proposed budget. Further, 37 positions have been eliminated since FY04. He provided a detailed explanation of the positions that would be eliminated or departments that would be reorganized under each \$1,000,000 incremental cut.

Mayor Davlin stated there are statutorily mandated positions at the City such as Mayor, Clerk, Treasurer, Corporation Counsel, Assistant to the Mayor, and Aldermen.

If we get into the \$5-8,000,000 range, the Library and remaining branches would be closed.

Mayor Davlin stated that there have been 4 Public Works administration positions cut since he took over. He reiterated that there were a total of 37 positions cut since he took office. There is still some discretion available in any proposal that might pass.

Take home cars have been eliminated. Major purchases have been eliminated from the budget this year. Again, 8.7% has been cut even before presenting the budget to the aldermen.

Ald Griffin stated this was exactly the format he had been looking for to determine what services or individuals would be lost based on these assumptions. Ald. Theilen agreed. He asked about the PIO's for the City, including police, fire & CWLP. Mayor Davlin stated there are only 2 PIOs at this time – one in police and one at CWLP. A sworn officer had always been in the PIO position. Last year, a civilian was put in that position putting a uniformed officer back on the street.

Mayor Davlin stated that the budget presented was balanced based on revenues from the rate payers outside of the City and those individuals using telephones. With the telecomm and with the PILOT, no cuts would have to be made.

Ald. Cahnman asked if hours at the main library branch would be altered or at all libraries? Mayor Davlin stated all of the libraries would be affected. Ald. Theilen stated that, based on the information he had, the biggest savings would be seen if the main branch and other branches closed on Sundays. Ald. Lesko asked if any monies were earmarked for the Northend Library. Mayor Davlin stated no. Ald. Lesko felt it was an injustice to simply scuttle the Northend library. He feels it is very important to keep a library available to the Northend residents. Mayor Davlin stated he didn't feel a restoration was possible given the cuts we're talking about. Ald. Lesko stated he wanted to keep this a priority.

Mayor Davlin continued to outline the cuts he would make under the one million dollar cuts. He stated that 2% of the overall budget goes into the Capital Fund to fund equipment purchases. Julie Zolgadahr explained what major repairs are funded through Fund 95. Mayor Davlin stated the City still owes monies on the Lincoln Green Golf Course even though we don't own it. The City pays for school crossing guards so a discussion would have to be had with District 186 to cover those expenses.

Ald. Edwards asked for a list of the 37 positions the Mayor had cut. Mayor Davlin stated he would get it for him. Ald. Edwards stated that there is such a thing as equal protection under the law. As long as we're talking about what is fair, he feels the City needs another firehouse.

A discussion followed on the details surrounding the closing of the Northend library. Mold was a serious issue at the library. The building is in a state of disrepair. Dir. Huntley stated that it was her recollections that removing the mold from the building was approximately \$50,000.00.

Ald. Theilen explained his proposed amendment to the budget. That amendment is attached to these minutes and incorporation herein by reference. He stated that he had requested an ordinance, on emergency passage, to increase the parking fees and fines which would raise approximately \$480,000. That money would be earmarked for the Library.

Mayor Davlin stated there are a lot of ideas and variables for the aldermen to consider. If the revenue enhancements pass, there would be minimal cuts. However, if the enhancements fail, the aldermen have some decisions to make.

Mayor Davlin stated that next Tuesday, he will call for votes on the enhancements first. If the enhancements pass, discussion on these proposed cuts is moot.

If the enhancements fail, we will have to go through each proposed amendment and discuss it's impact.

Ald. Dove asked to have a list of current vacancies and their impact on the budget. Mayor Davlin stated that he would have that available tomorrow.

Ald. Simpson moved to return 2008-935 back to Committee. Ald. Cimarossa Seconded. The Motion Carried 10/0 via voice vote. Ald. Edwards, Simpson, Kunz, Lesko, Cahnman, Mahoney, Cimarossa, Theilen, Dove, and Griffin voted yes.

The Next Item On The Agenda Was No. 2009-002, "An Ordinance Amending Chapter 37, Section 37.81, Of The 1988 City Of Springfield, Illinois, Code Of Ordinances, As Amended, By Increasing The City's Simplified Municipal Telecommunications Tax From 1% To 4%, As Amended." Ald. Mahoney Moved to Return 2009-002 to the Finance Committee. Ald. Cimarossa Seconded. . The Motion Carried 10/0 via voice vote. Ald. Edwards, Simpson, Kunz, Lesko, Cahnman, Mahoney, Cimarossa, Theilen, Dove, and Griffin voted yes.

The Next Item On The Agenda Was No. 2009-003, "An Ordinance Further Amending Ordinance No. 628-11-04, "An Ordinance To Define And Limit The Contributions / Payments Made From The Office Of Public Utilities Funds And Define The Inter-Fund Financial Policies, As Amended, To Restructure And Increase Electric Wholesale Payments To The Corporate Fund." Ald. Simpson Moved to Return 2009-003 to the Utilities Committee. Ald. Cimarossa Seconded. The Motion Carried 10/0 via voice vote. Ald. Edwards, Simpson, Kunz, Lesko, Cahnman, Mahoney, Cimarossa, Theilen, Dove, and Griffin voted yes.

The Next Item on the Agenda was No. 2009-064, ""An Ordinance Amending Chapter 100 Of The 1988 City Of Springfield Code Of Ordinances, As Amended, By Imposing A 5% Tax On The Privilege Of Purchasing Package Alcoholic Liquor At Retail" Ald. Cahnman Moved to Return 2009-064 back to the Public Affairs & Safety Committee. Ald. Simpson Seconded. The Motion Carried 9/1 via voice vote. Ald. Edwards, Simpson, Lesko, Cahnman, Mahoney, Cimarossa, Theilen, Dove, and Griffin voted yes. Ald. Kunz Voted No.

Ald. Simpson Moved to Adjourn the Special City Council Meeting at 6:55 p.m. Ald. Theilen Seconded. The Motion Carried 10/0 via voice vote. Ald. Edwards, Simpson, Kunz, Lesko, Cahnman, Mahoney, Cimarossa, Theilen, Dove, and Griffin voted yes.

Cecilia K. Tumulty

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