

**Minutes of Springfield City
Council Meeting
Tuesday, July 21, 2009, 5:30 PM.
City Council Chambers**

City Clerk Cecilia Tumulty called the Pre Council Session of the Springfield City Council to Order at 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 21, 2009, in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Center West. Clerk Tumulty Read the Ordinances and Resolutions to be considered at the Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting into the Record of the Meeting and Assigned the Ordinances to their Proper Committees. The Pre Council Session Concluded at 5:08 p.m.

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

Clerk Tumulty called the roll of City Council members.

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

ABSENT: Ald. Dove

Proclamations: None

ZONING PETITIONS

The first item on the agenda is docket number 2009-023 for the property located at 804-808 South English.

PETITIONER(S): Donnie W. Beechler

PRESENT ZONING CLASSIFICATION: R-5, General Residence and Office District (old ordinance).

REQUESTED ZONING RELIEF: Reclassification to S-1, Neighborhood Commercial and Office District.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approval

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION: Approval of the petition as submitted.

Alderman Theilen Moved to Continue the Petition to the August 18, 2009, City Council meeting. Ald. Griffin Seconded The Motion. The Motion Carried 9/0. Ald. Edwards, Simpson, Lesko, Cahnman, Mahoney, Cimarossa, Theilen, And Griffin Voted Yes.

The next item on the agenda is docket number 2009-025 for the property located at 1600 Taylor Avenue.

PETITIONER(S): Medics First Inc.

PRESENT ZONING CLASSIFICATION: B-1, Highway Business Service District.

REQUESTED ZONING RELIEF: Reclassification to I-1, Light Industrial District.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approval

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION: Approval of the petition as submitted.

Ald. Simpson Moved To Accept The Planning And Zoning Commission Recommendation. Ald. Cimarossa Seconded The Motion. The Motion Carried 9/0. Ald. Edwards, Simpson, Kunz, Lesko, Cahnman, Mahoney, Cimarossa, Theilen, and Griffin voted yes.

The final item on the agenda is docket number 2009-026 for the property located at 1135 North 9th Street.

PETITIONER(S): Linscott Development LLC

PRESENT ZONING CLASSIFICATION: B-1, Highway Business Service District.

REQUESTED ZONING RELIEF: Reclassification to S-2, Community Shopping and Office District with a CPU pursuant to Section 155.031 Conditional Permitted Uses in S-2 and Section 155.182, Multifamily Residences in Certain Commercial Districts and a Variance of Section 155.091(b) Off Street Parking for Residences to allow apartments on the first floor and reduce the number of required parking spaces from 1 ½ to 1 per dwelling unit.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approval

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION: Approval of the petition as submitted.

Ald. Lesko moved to Accept the Planning and Zoning Commission Recommendation. Ald. Griffin Seconded the Motion. Audra Hamernick, 4804 Lindscott Ave, Downers Grove, IL, and Dulcinea B. Gillman, 303 Elm Park, Elmhurst, IL 60126, addressed the Council. They thanked the council for their support. Ald. Cahnman asked about funding for the project. Ms. Hamernick stated that they had applied for stimulus money as well as HOME funds through the State. Depending on the nature of their application for the funds, the project would house special needs individuals.

Charles Hurst, 1104 North 8th Street, Springfield, Il, addressed the council. His property abutted the location of this project. He stated that he originally opposed the project, however, he had spoken with the petitioners as well as individuals associated with SIU School of Medicine. He

was speaking tonight in support of the project. Mr. Hurst provided a history of the neighborhood and some of the problems that have plagued the neighborhood where he has resided for the last 28 years. The neighborhood is improving and he would like it to keep improving. It is a welcome addition to the neighborhood.

Jim Sullivan, 1112 No. 8th Street, Springfield, Il, addressed the Council in support of the project. He stated that it is a good project and any concerns he originally had have been addressed by the petitioners.

Steve Combs, President of the Enos Park Neighborhood Association, Springfield, IL. addressed the Council and stated his concerns about this project. He distributed a letter earlier in the day to the Council members stating his concerns. He stated EPNA supported the project. He stated that there are 3 issues that remain unresolved. He would like to see three (3) amendments which include language that required SIU School of Medicine or some other entity to administer the program for disabled persons for a certain amount of time at this site. He stated there have been 166 service calls this year to the Hildebrandt High Rise area. This does not compliment the area. His concern and that of EPNA was what would happen when SIU was no longer involved in the project. He did not want it to become another low income housing site. He would like to see a commitment from the developers to SIU School of Medicine for a period of 20 years ideally that includes onsite administration. With the right management in the development there should be no problem.

The other issue is that 75% of the residents would be special needs and the remaining 25% would be low income. He would like to see 100% special needs individuals in the development. To the credit of the developers, he stated that the developers were willing to do so. However, that is not part of the current agreement.

The last issue is on-site management of the property. This is very important and with on-site management problems can be addressed. Mr. Combs asked for support of these amendments.

The petitioners stated they have a commitment with SIU School of Medicine. The cost of this project is nearly \$4.8 million dollars and they are working closely with SIU. There is 24 hour onsite security and property management. There have been offices designed into the project for SIU administrators. There is a police kiosk with in the development and a zero tolerance policy for tenants.

Ald. Cahnman stated it sounded like the petitioner was in agreement with EPNA and asked if they would agree to memorialize that agreement within the zoning ordinance. Ms. Hamernick stated there is one bone of contention and that is for an armed security guard. They do not agree with this condition. The petitioners stated they have had a lot of conversations and emails with EPNA and were surprised by the stance taken tonight.

Ald. Edwards asked CC Johnson if the Council can force agreements between two parties within the ordinance. CC Johnson stated that it is her opinion that the amendments submitted by Ald. Cahnman were illegal and “not proper zoning considerations.” The issues relate to the operation of the facility and not an issue of what is proper within a zoning district.

Ald. Edwards stated that since the funding being sought here is federal and money, there are certain requirements the petitioners must meet as well as rules and guidelines. If there is a violation of the grant agreement, they are on the hook for the property. The petitioners agreed.

Ald. Lesko stated there is a motion and a second on the floor. Ald. Lesko called the question. Ald. Theilen seconded. In the interim, Ald. Cahnman moved to Amend the Planning and Zoning Commission's Recommendation. Mayor Davlin recognized Ald. Lesko's motion to call the question. The Motion to Call the Question Carried 8/1. Ald. Edwards, Simpson, Kunz, Lesko, Mahoney, Cimarossa, Theilen, and Griffin voted yes. Ald. Cahnman Voted No.

The Motion on Final Passage Carried 9/0. Ald. Edwards, Simpson, Kunz, Lesko, Cahnman, Mahoney, Cimarossa, Theilen, and Griffin voted yes.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Treasurer Langfelder was recognized for the Monthly Treasurer's Report. He indicated the Corporate Fund balance at the end of June 2009 was \$948,851.00. Ald. Simpson Moved to Accept the Treasurer's Report. Ald. Cimarossa Seconded. The Motion Carried 9/0 via voice vote. Ald. Edwards, Simpson, Kunz, Lesko, Cahnman, Mahoney, Cimarossa, Theilen, and Griffin voted yes.

Ald. Simpson moved, Ald. Cimarossa said seconded, To Dispense with the Reading of the Minutes of the July 7, 2009, City Council Meeting and Approve the Minutes. The Motion Carried 9/0 via voice vote. Ald. Edwards, Simpson, Kunz, Lesko, Cahnman, Mahoney, Cimarossa, Theilen, and Griffin voted yes.

Ald. Simpson moved, Ald. Theilen Seconded, To Incorporate the Pre-Council First Reading of Ordinances into the Record of This Council Meeting. The Motion Carried 9/0 via voice vote. Ald. Edwards, Simpson, Kunz, Lesko, Cahnman, Mahoney, Cimarossa, Theilen, and Griffin voted yes.

The Next Matter On The Agenda Was The Consent Agenda. Ald. Simpson moved, Ald. Theilen seconded, To Incorporate the Pre-Council Reading of the Consent Agenda into the Record of This Council Meeting. The Motion Carried 9/0 via voice vote. Ald. Edwards, Simpson, Kunz, Lesko, Cahnman, Mahoney, Cimarossa, Theilen, and Griffin voted yes.

Ald. Simpson Moved To Place The Consent Agenda On Final Passage. Ald. Cimarossa Seconded. The Motion Carried 9/0 via voice vote. Ald. Edwards, Simpson, Kunz, Lesko, Cahnman, Mahoney, Cimarossa, Theilen, and Griffin voted yes.

Agenda numbers of 2008 – 337, 2009 – 190, 2009-281, 2009-326, 2009-327 and 2009-348 and 2009-355 remain tabled or in committee.

The First Item On The Agenda Was No. 2009-373, "An Ordinance Authorizing The Execution Of An Annexation Agreement With Kenneth Wayne McMillan And Terry Lynn McMillan For The Property Located At 1221 W. Miller Street." Ald. Simpson Moved To Recess The Regular Meeting Of The City Council To Hold A Public Hearing Regarding Agenda No. 2009-373. Ald.

Kunz seconded. The Motion Carried 9/0 via voice vote. Ald. Edwards, Simpson, Kunz, Lesko, Cahnman, Mahoney, Cimarossa, Theilen, and Griffin voted yes.

A Public Hearing was convened. .

Ald. Simpson Moved To Adjourn The Public Hearing And Reconvene The Regular Meeting Of The City Council. Ald. Kunz Seconded. The Motion Carried 9/0 via voice vote. Ald. Edwards, Simpson, Kunz, Lesko, Cahnman, Mahoney, Cimarossa, Theilen, and Griffin voted yes.

Ald. Simpson Moved To Place Agenda No. 2009-373 On Final Passage. Ald. Kunz Seconded. The Motion Carried 10/0. Ald. Edwards, Simpson, Kunz, Lesko, Cahnman, Mahoney, Cimarossa, Theilen, Griffin and Mayor Davlin voted yes.

The Next Item On The Agenda was No. 2009-383, "An Ordinance Waiving The Requirements Of Section 37.06 Of The 1988 City Of Springfield Code Of Ordinances, As Amended, And Directing The Office Of Budget And Management To Cease Deposits From The Corporate Fund To The Capital Equipment Fund And/Or Reclassify Existing Revenues For Fiscal Year 2010 In The Total Amount Of \$500,000, For Emergency Passage." Ald. Edwards Moved To Place Agenda No. 2009-383 On Emergency Passage. Ald. Cimarossa Seconded. The Motion Carried 10/0. Ald. Edwards, Simpson, Kunz, Lesko, Cahnman, Mahoney, Cimarossa, Theilen, Griffin and Mayor Davlin voted yes.

The Next Item On The Agenda was No. 2009-383, "An Ordinance Waiving The Requirements Of Section 100.30(F) Of The 1988 City Of Springfield Code Of Ordinances, As Amended, And Directing The Office Of Budget And Management To Reclassify Existing Revenues Received From The Hotel/Motel Tax For Fiscal Year 2010 By Both Reducing The Revenues Budgeted For The Capital Improvement Fund And Increasing The Revenues Budgeted For The Corporate Fund In The Amount Of \$1,130,000, For Emergency Passage." Ald. Edwards Moved To Place Agenda No. 2009-382 On Emergency Passage." Ald. Cimarossa Seconded.

Ald. Cahnman Moved to Amend No. 2009-384. Ald. Edwards Seconded. The amendment requires the City to repay the Capital Improvement Fund by February 28, 2011. Ald. Theilen asked about the time period involved. Mayor Davlin stated this will be paid back in next year's budget. Ald. Griffin stated his only concern is have we identified a specific revenue source for repayment. Mayor Davlin stated it will come from the typical revenues. If it's not there, it will come from other line items. A lot of this will be resolved in this fiscal year and Mayor Davlin is comfortable paying it back.

Ald. Edwards stated this is a cash flow problem we are having now. It not uncommon for small businesses to borrow money. The \$1.5 million will cover the shortfall on the health insurance. Mayor Davlin stated that is part of it. Ald. Griffin stated the shortfall comes from having to pay ahead rather than pay as you go. He asked how this will be avoided in the future. Mayor Davlin stated there will be an adjustment in all of the premiums. That happens every year and sometimes twice a year. Ken Crutcher stated the dollars used to pay back any loan will come from any monies budgeted next year. He stated at present there is an RFP out to financial institutions with various scenarios of loans. He stated he does not want to speculate what the interest rate will be. He reiterated that the shortfall is a moving target. Many factors come into play. The economy and revenues foremost. There is passive growth and new debt with this loan.

Mr. Crutcher stated that if revenues remain flat, or go down, we will have fewer dollars to distribute to programs and personnel next year. What he cannot give the aldermen is a cut and dried scenario.

Ald. Cahnman asked about the payment to IPBC. He asked if the IPBC requires monthly payments. Mr. Crutcher stated the issue is how do we pay any monies that we would fall in arrears on from being self-insured to participants in the co-op. There is a gap and that is what must be paid back.

Ald. Theilen stated we're looking at a \$2 million payment to the co-op from the corporate fund and we're looking for that cash flow to return to the corporate budget to pay that back. Mayor Davlin stated that is correct.

The Motion to Amend carried 7/2. Ald. Edwards, Lesko, Cahnman, Mahoney, Cimarossa, Theilen, and Griffin Voted Yes. Ald. Simpson and Kunz Voted No.

Ald. Mahoney stated that he presumes this will pass. He's against it. We've had a lot of discussion about this. He asked if it was possible to review the letter from AFSCME at the next meeting and see what suggestions can be put in place. Mayor Davlin stated he is not going to negotiate in the press but he will discuss certain issues. Ald. Mahoney asked what he will and won't discuss. Mayor Davlin stated that is not a problem. He said there are just certain things that cannot be done. Ald. Mahoney asked that it be done at the next council meeting. Mayor Davlin stated he's going to see where this goes tonight and go from there but that's not a problem.

Ald. Griffin stated this is one of the worst things we've had in a long time. He said it's pretty cut and dried though. He's not getting any sidewalks or anything done in Ward 10. He feels horrible but wants to save jobs. He's going to vote for it because he wants to make sure that the residents of Ward 10 still get police and fire protection. He was against raising taxes but he did it because the City needed the infrastructure and we could start cleaning up the city. He has a bad taste in his mouth. It's the best of a bunch of bad situations. If all the ordinances pass tonight, he asked what more needed to be done. Mayor Davlin said that even with all of the ordinances passing, there would be some lay offs. Police and fire layoffs would not be necessary. Ald. Griffin stated he doesn't want to see his firehouse closed because he's underserved anyway. He wants to follow through with repaying this money.

Ald. Lesko stated that he likes the idea that this council is still accountable for repayment of the money by February 28, 2011. Ald. Cahnman stated that we're still going to use that money for streets and public improvements. No one could have foreseen that the economy was going to go so badly. This is something we have to do but we have no choice.

Ald. Theilen asked what the higher priority for the city resident would be. He believed it was police and fire.

Ald. Mahoney stated the council has to commit to go through the budget and streamline city government. But, unless we do what we're supposed to do, we're going to have the same discussion again next year.

Ald. Lesko stated that is why he asked for the monitoring system so that each month the council could review and monitor spending.

Ald. Edwards stated he's been on both sides of the coin with people. As firemen, your job is to get people out of harms way. It's not fun to think about a fireman or policeman losing their job or a firehouse closing. He stated one time Abraham Lincoln was chastised for changing his mind. He stated he agrees with Ald. Cahnman when he stated don't blame me for being wiser today than I was yesterday. He believes his constituents would overwhelmingly say they want fire protection. The same with police. They want those guys showing up when they are needed. This ordinances buy us time and will allow us to go through the budget and downsize. This ordinance is the right thing to do.

Ald. Edwards further stated that if someone had told him that we were going to lose General Motors, he would have said no way. These are different times today. He believes the amendment is the right thing to do. The money is going back to the fund it came from. He's going to vote for it.

The Motion, as amended, on Emergency Passage failed 7/3. Ald. Edwards, Lesko, Cahnman, Cimarossa, Theilen, Griffin and Mayor Davlin Voted Yes. Ald. Simpson, Kunz, and Mahoney Voted No.

Ald. Edwards asked if he could request a special meeting. Mayor Davlin stated that he would like to call a special meeting on Tuesday, at 5:15 p.m., prior to the meeting of the Committee of the Whole. Ald. Edwards asked if that meets the deadline on Saturday. Mayor Davlin stated the layoffs would begin on Saturday but he would work with the unions. Ald. Theilen asked if a meeting could be scheduled prior to Saturday. Mayor Davlin scheduled a Special City Council meeting on Thursday, July 23, 2009, at 6:22 p.m. Agenda No. 2009-384 would be the only item on the agenda.

The Next Item On The Agenda was No. 2009-385, "An Ordinance Authorizing A Loan In An Amount Not To Exceed \$1,500,000.00 For A Period Of No More Than Three Years, Authorizing A Supplemental Appropriation Of Said Loan Proceeds And Authorizing Payment To The Lending Institution Of Principal, Interest And Costs," For Emergency Passage. Ald. Simpson Moved To Place Agenda No. 2009-385 On Emergency Passage. Ald. Cimarossa seconded. Ald. Cahnman asked if we need all of this money now. Ken Crutcher stated we need dollars now. Ald. Cahnman asked if this could be converted to a line of credit. Crutcher stated the RFP was due back in on Monday at 2:00 p.m. and it shouldn't be a problem. We can negotiate how we get the money. If they are willing to give us the cash up front, they would certainly be willing to hold it in their bank. Ald. Edwards Moved to Call the Question. Ald. Cimarossa seconded. Mayor Davlin stated let's just vote. The Motion on Emergency Passage Carried 8/2. Ald. Edwards, Simpson, Lesko, Mahoney, Cimarossa, Theilen, Griffin and Mayor Davlin voted Yes. Ald. Kunz and Cahnman voted No.

The Next Item On The Agenda was No. 2009-386, "An Ordinance Approving And Authorizing The Execution Of A Professional Services Agreement In An Amount Not To Exceed \$400,630.00 With Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc. For Construction Engineering Services For A Chemical Feed Building For The Water Division Purification Plant, For Emergency Passage."

Ald. Simpson Moved To Place Agenda No. 2009-386 On Emergency Passage. Ald. Cimarossa Seconded. The Motion Carried 10/0. Ald. Edwards, Simpson, Kunz, Lesko, Cahnman, Mahoney, Cimarossa, Theilen, Griffin and Mayor Davlin voted yes.

The Next Item on the Agenda was No. 2009-387, “An Ordinance Prohibiting the Appointment of New Employees for All City Offices, For Emergency Passage.” Ald. Edwards Moved To Place Agenda No. 2009-387 On Emergency Passage. Ald. Cimarossa Seconded. Ald. Cahnman stated a freeze might make senses if it applied to the corporate side only where the fiscal problems are found. Ald. Edwards stated then vote no. Ald. Mahoney stated they would just have to come to the council if they want to be hired. Mayor Davlin stated this is basically a non-binding resolution. It doesn’t mean anything. The process of hiring is done when the budget is passed. It doesn’t stop anyone from being hired. The money is put in there and it doesn’t matter how it is spent. Ald. Cahnman asked CC Johnson if this ordinance would restrict hiring. CC Johnson stated that hiring is an executive branch function. If the money is in the budget to pay the people hired, then the Executive Branch is within it authority. Ald. Edwards stated this is silly. If we’re talking about laying people off, why would anyone be hired? Let’s move on and vote. The Motion for Emergency Passage Failed 5/5. Ald. Edwards, Mahoney, Cimarossa, Theilen, and Griffin voted Yes. Ald. Simpson, Kunz, Lesko, Cahnman and Mayor Davlin Voted No.

The Next Item On The Agenda Was No. 2009-388, “An Ordinance to Increase the Number of Class “A” Liquor Licenses By One For Remy’s On Monroe LLC, 225 E. Monroe Street, For Emergency Passage.” Ald. Cahnman Moved To Place Agenda No. 2009-388 On Emergency Passage. Ald. Kunz Seconded. The Motion Carried 10/0. Ald. Edwards, Simpson, Kunz, Lesko, Cahnman, Mahoney, Cimarossa, Theilen, Griffin and Mayor Davlin voted yes.

The Next Item On The Agenda Was No. 2009-389, “An Ordinance Accepting And Authorizing The Execution Of Junior Police Academy Grant #107001 In The Amount Of \$3,969.00 And Grant #107022 In The Amount Of \$4,117.00 From The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, Authorizing A Supplemental Appropriation In The Amount Of \$8,086.00, And Authorizing Execution Of Subrecipient Agreement Numbers 107001-A And 107022-A With Junior Police Academy Of Springfield, Inc. NFP, For The Springfield Police Department, For Emergency Passage.” Ald. Simpson Moved To Place Agenda No. 2009-389 On Emergency Passage. Ald. Cimarossa Seconded. The Motion Carried 10/0. Ald. Edwards, Simpson, Kunz, Lesko, Cahnman, Mahoney, Cimarossa, Theilen, Griffin and Mayor Davlin voted yes.

The Next Item On The Agenda Was No. 2009-390, “An Ordinance Authorizing Acceptance And Execution Of The 2009 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (#2009-Sb-B9-1144) From The U.S. Department Of Justice, Bureau Of Justice Assistance, In The Amount Of \$1,374,655.00, Authorizing A Supplemental Appropriation Of The Grant Funds And Authorizing The Execution Of A Memorandum Of Understanding With Sangamon County, Illinois, To Allocate Funds In The Amount Of \$481,129.00 Received In Connection With The 2009 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant For The Springfield Police Department, For Emergency Passage.” Ald. Simpson Moved To Place Agenda No. 2009-390 On Emergency Passage. Ald. Cimarossa Seconded. The Motion Carried 10/0. Ald. Edwards, Simpson, Kunz, Lesko, Cahnman, Mahoney, Cimarossa, Theilen, Griffin and Mayor Davlin voted yes.

Ald. Simpson Moved To Suspend The Rules And Place On First Reading, Agenda No. 2009-399, "An Ordinance Authorizing Additional Payment Of \$10,091.98 To The State Of Illinois, Department Of Transportation, For A Total Amount Not To Exceed \$102,201.98 For Traffic Signals And Sidewalks For The Stevenson Drive, Dirksen Parkway And 6th Street Project For The Office Of Public Works." Ald. Cimarossa Seconded. The Motion Carried by Voice Vote.

Ald. Simpson Moved To Suspend The Rules And Place On First Reading, Agenda No. 2009-400, "A Resolution Referring A Petition To The Springfield Planning And Zoning Commission For Public Hearing And Consideration Proposing Amendments To The Zoning Ordinance Of The City Of Springfield To Reclassify Property Commonly Known As 1018 E. South Grand Avenue, 1020 E. South Grand Avenue, 1420 S. 10 ½ Street, And 1413 S. 11th Street From B-1 Highway Business Service District And 1426 S. 10 ½ Street, 1428 S. 10 ½ Street, And 1427 S. 11th Street From I-1 Light Industrial District To S-3 Central Shopping District." Ald. Cimarossa Seconded. The Motion Carried by Voice Vote.

Mayor Davlin asked if any one of the three aldermen who voted no on Ordinance No. 2009-384 would reconsider their vote so that we would not have to come back. No one spoke.

Roger Griffith, AFSCME Council 31, Springfield, IL. addressed the Council in support of Ordinance No. 2009-384. He stated AFSCME supported Ordinance no. 2009-383. He spoke of the letter that AFSCME had provided to Mayor Davlin and some of those suggestions were reiterated. The various locals under AFSCME have agreed to 3 voluntary furlough days. The total furlough days committed thus far equal \$100,000.00. He stated that he believes the Council can agree to take more money from CWLP in order to save jobs at the City. Ald. Theilen asked CC Johnson to speak about the CWLP contributions to the Corporate Fund. She stated the various bond issues in place contain agreements that specifically set forth a formula bond holders rely upon when purchasing the bond which funds the various construction projects. It would be difficult to change the formula.

Ald. Edwards asked for clarification of the total amount of furlough days given by AFSCME members. Mr. Griffith stated the total average furlough days given is 3.7 days per employee. That is over \$100,000. Ald. Edwards asked CC Johnson if employees are contribution more than 3 furlough days, why couldn't the employees write a check to the City to assist with the deficit. CC Johnson stated that any citizen is allowed to write a check to the Corporate Fund. CWLP cannot transfer the money; however, a citizen may contribute to the Corporate Fund. Mr. Griffith stated that some agreement can be worked out. He referenced a letter which AFSCME had sent detailing cost-saving suggestions. He would supply copies to the aldermen. Ald. Cahnman asked about the transfers from CWLP to the Corporate Fund and the PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes). The formula (3.5 from electric and 2.5 from water) cannot change. Mr. Griffith asked for copies of the bond documents that CC Johnson referenced. He wanted to have the information to explain the PILOT to his members.

Mayor Davlin explained the PILOT and why bond covenants cannot be revisited. He stated he promised those bond holders that the PILOT would be 3.5 and 2.5. Ald. Lesko stated we broke our word tonight by taking the hotel/motel money. Others argued that this is a different scenario involving bond covenants and not just a promise.

Ald. Griffin asked if a private company was running CWLP, would the PILOT contribution be different? Would we get more or less from CWLP? Mayor Davlin stated we are in the 60 percentile. Some get more and others get less.

Ald. Kunz stated if a private company was running CWLP, the rates would not be as low as they are right now.

Mayor Davlin stated that CWLP is paying 20% of the corporate fund salaries plus 100% of their own salaries. The PILOT helps the corporate fund immensely.

Ald. Cahnman stated he researched other municipalities and their PILOTS to compare Springfield. He found that Springfield had a lower PILOT than other cities. He tried unsuccessfully to amend the PILOT so that the rate contributed back to the Corporate Fund is tied to the rate CWLP charges its customers; however, the Council did not agree with him. Ald. Edwards stated the citizens are glad, too.

Richard Stone, a precinct committeeman in downtown Springfield, addressed the Council. He stated there is a major concern about events and street parties downtown and handicap access to the sidewalks. He asked the Council to bar any outdoor stages in front of the Alamo and the VFW downtown. Ald. Edwards suggested that Mr. Stone speak with his alderman.

Jeff Bigelow, Council 31, addressed the Council. He stated he and his members support the measures passed by the council and support the Ordinance the Council will discuss again on Thursday night. He stated the Library Services provided by employees of Lincoln Library are vital to the City of Springfield. He stated we need creative thinking to address the budget problems. He suggested the Council look at doubling fines charged by the City as well as bringing all city offices and operations back to city owned buildings and the library. This will save much needed money. Allow the library to charge fees for rental of their meeting spaces. Cutting library jobs and services is not the answer. This community deserves a working library.

Ald. Kunz Moved to Adjourn the Meeting at approximately 6:50 p.m. Ald. Cahnman Seconded. The Motion Carried.

Cecilia K. Tumulty

Cecilia K. Tumulty, C.M.C
City Clerk