

**Minutes of Springfield City
Special Council Meeting
Thursday, July 23, 2009, 6:22 p.m.
City Council Chambers**

Mayor Davlin called the Meeting to Order at 6:22 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 , Lesko , Cahnman , Mahoney , Cimarossa , Theilen , Dove , Griffin & Mayor Davlin .

ABSENT: Ald. Kunz

The Only Item On The Agenda Was No. 2009-384, "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 \$1,130,000.00, As Amended." Ald. Edwards Moved To Place Agenda No. 2009-284 On Final Passage. Ald. Cimarossa Seconded.

Ald. Theilen stated he wanted to mention that today's editorial did not mention the amendment to this ordinance. The amendment as written has the City repaying the money no later than February 28, 2011. Many phone calls Ald. Theilen received were because many people thought this would be affecting sidewalks in their neighborhoods. He contacted Director Norris on this issue and was reassured this money was not planned for sidewalks at this time. Ald. Cimarossa asked Chief Kulek what would happen if this ordinance does not pass tonight. Which fire station would be closed? Chief Kulek stated the firehouses would operate on a rotation basis. Mayor Davlin stated there will be no fire station permanently closed. They would be on a rotation schedule.

Ald. Edwards stated he believes there is confusion with this situation. People believe the Alderman get to choose what they want to do. The choices are sidewalks or Fireman and Police Officers. He will not allow for people to be in harms way because the Council did not do what they needed to do. He feels keeping people out of harms way is more important than sidewalks.

Ald. Dove wanted to point out that the choice of police and fire was not the choice of the aldermen. There are other places to cut such as the payroll. The fact the police and fire are put out there is because they create the most news and panic. He feels this is completely wrong. He does not agree with the fact that they were chosen.

Mayor Davlin stated this was all done equally across the board. They happened to be the largest departments.

Ald. Dove stated if these cuts are done it gets us to a zero base. Three months down the road we will have another shortfall. This will not change anything. He would rather settle the problems with the over inflation with administration and upper management. In the last fiscal year there

have been 170 people hired. There are quite a few people there that you could cut before you would have to touch police and fire. This should be addressed head on and leave police, fire and public works departments alone.

Ald. Cahnman stated he agrees with both Ald. Edwards and Dove. We need to look at reality. The layoff notices have gone out and we know that as of Saturday if we don't add additional funds we will have less policeman and fireman. What good does it do to have an improved street if it's going to take emergency personnel longer to get to someone's house? He believes there is room for more cuts. It is very important that we make all the cuts that are possible. Perhaps with more cuts we could pay back this money sooner than anticipated.

Ald. Lesko stated we are voting against two evils. This is a time we need to look at what's most important. It is not worth it for Ward 4 to go any amount of time without a fire station for any length of time. If it is a simple question between sidewalks and health and safety, he will chose health and safety. We need some alternate plans.

Ald. Griffin apologized to the Policeman and Fireman for putting them in this uncertain position. It is important to move forward from here. If things keep continuing the way they are we will be right back where we are.

The Motion Carried 7/3 Via Voice Vote. Ald. Edwards, Lesko, Cahnman, Cimarossa, Theilen, Griffin and Mayor Davlin Voted Yes. Ald. Simpson, Mahoney and Dove voted No.

Terry Reed, SCITL, urged the Alderman to preserve the jobs of City employees. Springfield needs a solution that puts more money into our local economy, not plans to cut salaries or turn families with wage earners into families on the unemployment line.

Bob Moore, Lincoln Library staff member for 22 years, thanked Alderman for voting for the Ordinance. Lincoln Library is one of the most valuable resources in the City during hard economic times. It is one of the resources that will help re-stimulate employment. If these cuts stand the staff that remains will not be able to keep pace with the demand and service will suffer. He stated during the FY10 budget, there were 62 positions in Lincoln Library. Since March 1, 2009, many positions have gone unfilled. If all 10 individuals notified are laid off, that will bring the total number of positions down to 44. The people filling these staff positions that are being laid off provide a valued service to the community. There have been 18 positions gone unfilled or eliminated from the library which equates to a 29% cut. He further stated that a total of 56 hours have been cut from the library's operating schedule. He stated that Springfield is a great city and deserves a great library.

Ald. Edwards Moved To Adjourn The Meeting At Approximately 6:45 P.M. Ald. Cimarossa Seconded. The Motion Carried 9/0 Via Voice Vote. Ald. Edwards, Simpson, Lesko, Cahnman, Mahoney, Cimarossa, Theilen, Dove, & Griffin Voted Yes.

Cecilia K. Tumulty

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