

**Minutes of Springfield City
Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 5, 2010
City Council Chambers**

Deputy City Clerk Veronica Bigley called the Pre Council Session of the Springfield City Council to Order at 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 5, 2010, in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Center West. Deputy Clerk Bigley 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 the Committee of the Whole. The Pre Council Session Concluded at 5:09 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 ☒, Ald. Dove ☒, Griffin ☒ & Mayor Davlin ☒.

ABSENT:

Proclamations: None

REGULAR BUSINESS

Ald. Simpson Moved, Ald. Cimarossa Seconded, To Incorporate the Pre-Council First Reading of Ordinances into the Record of This Council Meeting. The Motion Carried 10/0 via voice vote.

Ald. Simpson Moved, Ald. Kunz Seconded, To Incorporate the Consent Agenda into the Record of This Council Meeting. The Motion Carried 10/0 via voice vote.

Ald. Cimarossa Moved To Place The Consent Agenda On Final Passage. Ald. Kunz Seconded. The Motion Carried 10/0. Ald. Edwards, Simpson, Kunz, Lesko, Cahnman, Mahoney, Cimarossa, Theilen, Dove and Griffin voted yes.

Ald. Simpson voted No on Agenda No 2009-606.

Ald. Cahnman voted Present on Agenda Nos. 2009-591 and 2009-609.

Ald. Dove voted No on Agenda No 2009-606.

Mayor Davlin congratulated new Police Chief, Bobby Williams. Chief Williams is the 53rd Chief of Police for the City of Springfield. Chief Williams thanked the Council and stated he hoped to continue to make his family and this City proud.

Agenda numbers of 2008-337, 2009-387 and 2009-582 remain tabled or in committee.

Ald. Simpson Moved To Suspend The Rules and Place On First Reading, Agenda No. 2010-001, "An Ordinance Amending Various Sections Of Chapter 50 Of The 1988 City Of Springfield Code Of Ordinances, As Amended, Regarding Temporary Services; Electric Service In Housing And Business Developments; Utility Line Extensions; Street Lighting; Security Lighting; And Removal Of Obstructing Trees Or Branches, For The Office Of Public Utilities". Ald. Cimarossa Seconded. The Motion Carried by Voice Vote.

Ald. Simpson Moved To Suspend The Rules and Place On First Reading, Agenda No. 2010-002, "A Resolution Urging Woodside Township To Convey The Ownership And Jurisdiction Of The Township Road Known As Hazel Lane And Shoulder Thereto To The City Of Springfield And, If Not, Commencing Annexation Of The Hazel Lane Residences Into The City Of Springfield". Ald. Cahnman Seconded. The Motion Carried by Voice Vote.

Ald. Simpson Moved To Suspend The Rules and Place On First Reading, Agenda No. 2010-003, "An Ordinance Annexing Certain Described Property On Hazel Lane Located In North Hazel Dell Subdivision". Ald. Cimarossa Seconded. The Motion Carried by Voice Vote.

Mayor Davlin stated the Budget Books should be going to print on Thursday or Friday and available to the Alderman on Monday, January 11, 2010. He apologized to the Council for the Budget Books getting out so late. He stated this is the latest they have ever been out but he has never faced this kind of budget deficit. By postponing it this long, he stated we may have saved 12 jobs. On a positive note, the City was notified that we had received \$4.627 million dollars in an EPA grant and loan as part of the Stimulus and the Public Water Supply Loan Program. It is a twenty year no interest loan, 25% of which we don't have to pay back.

Ald. Edwards asked if it was true that the City of Springfield was not salting any roads.

Director Norris stated typically we salt the main roads. 90% of the time we don't salt anything other than the major thoroughfares through a subdivision. Salting the entire City would cost about \$90,000.00.

Ald. Lesko asked what the temperature had to be for the salt to be effective.

Director Norris stated anything above 16 – 17 degrees is an effective range.

Ald. Theilen stated most of his calls were because a lot of the roads that are not main roads didn't get plowed. Most of these streets are sheets of ice now. Is there anything we can do?

Director Norris stated at this temperature, without putting calcium chloride and salt on them, which is not going to be very effective at this point, there is not much we can do.

Dr. Joseph Nyre, President and CEO of the HOPE Institute, was present to address the Council. Earlier today he announced the most important development in the history of HOPE Institute and an important step forward in the economic development of the City of Springfield. That development was the renovation of the HOPE Institute campus. That renovation is coming about as the result of a new residential conversion agreement that HOPE has signed with the State of Illinois. This agreement is a win/win for all involved. Dr. Nyre covered the history of the issue. In 1963, HOPE leased land from the City of Springfield out by Lake Springfield. In 1995, new residents moved on to Hazel Lane, the only lane at the time that had access to HOPE. That same year petitions were circulated to close access to HOPE.

In 1996, after that failed petition drive, another petition drive occurred and was unsuccessful. In 1997, HOPE signed an agreement with the City, Woodside Township and the residents, that we would always have two methods of egress and a new road was built. Since that time, HOPE has invested \$7 million on the land it leases from the City. They have created 100 construction jobs and added 275 full time jobs to the Springfield labor market. HOPE now employs 567 full time staff and is the 7th largest employer in Springfield and the County. HOPE serves 26,000 children from Rockford to Carbondale. Of those 26,000 children the most vulnerable, most disabled and most medically fragile, reside on the campus on the land we lease from the City. We made these investments on commitments we had from the City Council and the lease, up until 2008 guaranteed access to Hazel Lane.

When HOPE completed construction of the \$7 million project, access from Hazel Lane was blocked and gated. For four years, HOPE has been engaged in very costly litigation. Dr. Nyre suspects that litigation will continue for many more years. We did enter into a settlement agreement that guaranteed that road would not be blocked; unfortunately that settlement agreement has been violated. Hope has signed an agreement with the State and pledged to convert its facilities. This project will add 85 more jobs for Springfield at a critical time in Springfield's history.

Dr. Nyre stated we are at a crossroads. As an organization, HOPE cannot continue to spend that much money on land we lease from the City unless we have the access issues resolved. These children are the most medically fragile and some may not even see the age of 21. They have pace makers, seizure disorders and chronic life threatening health conditions, for which we provide 24 hour medical care. When bad weather comes or an emergency blocks our roads, we need a secondary entrance. Health and safety concerns and economic development are the reasons we are here today. We made an investment in Springfield based on commitments and are getting ready to make another very large commitment. We know this can be resolved. We have to rebuild, we have committed in writing. We will rebuild somewhere and would like that to be in Springfield.

Jenny Conlee, Chairman of the Board at HOPE Institute, would like to reiterate what Dr. Nyre stated. She stated we have got to have two roads that we can count on at all times. Particularly in times when the main roads become unusable because of accidents and ice, etc. We will not, as a board, vote to spend another \$6 million on that campus if we don't have a guaranteed second road. We are trusting that you will help us solve that problem.

Ald. Kunz Moved to Adjourn the Meeting at approximately 5:50 p.m. Ald. Cimarossa seconded. The Motion Carried 10/0 via voice vote.

Cecilia K. Tumulty

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