

**Minutes of Special City
Council Meeting for the City of Springfield
Tuesday, December 28, 2010 at 5:15 p.m.
City Council Chambers**

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL SESSION

Mayor Pro Tem Kunz called the Meeting to Order at 5:15 p.m. All were invited to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk Tumulty called the roll of City Council members.

PRESENT: Ald. Edwards , Ald. Simpson , Ald. Kunz , Ald. Lesko , Ald. Cahnman , Ald. Mahoney , Ald. Cimarossa , Ald. Theilen , Ald. Dove , Ald. Griffin

ABSENT: None

Ald. Simpson moved to recess the regular meeting of the City Council for the purpose of holding Executive Session to discuss selection of a person to fill a vacancy in an elected office as well as the decision memo issued by Corporation Counsel Jenifer Johnson. Ald. Cimarossa seconded. Ald. Cahnman stated he believed the public should know the procedure the Council will use to make that determination. He did not support going into Executive Session.

The motion failed 3/7. Ald. Simpson , Ald. Lesko , and Ald. Cimarossa voted Yes.

Ald. Edwards , Ald. Cahnman , Ald. Mahoney , Ald. Theilen , Ald. Dove , Ald. Griffin , and Mayor Pro Tem. Kunz voted No.

Mayor Pro Tem Kunz stated that nominations would be taken for Acting Mayor. No seconds were necessary. Votes would be taken on each candidate.

Ald. Simpson nominated Jim Donelan as Acting Mayor. She stated that she believes selecting Jim Donelan is the most logical.

Ald. Cahnman nominated Ald. Mark Mahoney as Acting Mayor.

Ald. Griffin nominated Ald. Frank Edwards as Acting Mayor.

Ald. Mahoney nominated Ald. Debbie Cimarossa as Acting Mayor.

Mayor Pro Tem Kunz asked for discussion.

Ald. Simpson stated that her nomination of Jim Donelan was primarily to make sure that during the period of mourning in this City, the citizens are given the best in terms of the decisions to be made by the Council. It is not partisan. She stated we're looking to move the city forward. She stated that Mr. Donelan will come into the position and no learning curve would be necessary. He knows the budget process and what needs to be done.

Ald. Simpson stated that she does believe that this decision should not be a partisan decision nor should it be one based on self aggrandizement. She stated we need to move the City forward and let

the citizens know because they are watching the Council. It's not about a party. It's about the citizens of Springfield. She stated that she believes Jim Donelan is the best individual to do that.

City Treasurer Langfelder was recognized. He stated that after the tragic death of Mayor Davlin, there was a consensus that the transfer of mayoral duties was to be seamless and transparent. To the contrary, when CC Johnson rendered a legal opinion about the transfer of mayoral duties according to the Federal Consent Decree upon which our form of government was established, CC Johnson's legal opinion was met with opposition. He stated for nearly 8 years, we have followed Corporation Counsel's opinion and now is not the time to stray.

Treasurer Langfelder stated the City is in a time of healing. Now is the time for the City Council to bring the City together and unanimously select an acting Mayor. If the City Council goes against CC Johnson's legal opinion regarding the Federal Consent Decree, then the City Council should take the logical step and select an alderman that is not running in the upcoming election.

Treasurer Langfelder stated that just as we do not need a divided City, we do not need a divided City Council during this time of healing. Please help Springfield's healing process by coming together and unanimously selecting an Acting Mayor.

Ald. Cahnman asked if any member of the public had requested to speak. Mayor Pro Tem stated that he was unaware of any person wishing to speak.

Ald. Simpson asked if anyone from the public had any statements on this issue.

Victoria Ringer, Executive Director of Downtown Springfield, Inc, addressed the City Council. She stated that the first inclination of the Board of Trustees of DSI was to support Jim Donelan. She stated that everyone believes that he would be a great acting Mayor. After some thought and discussion of the potential challenges of selecting Mr. Donelan, it is the opinion of the Board that it should be someone who is not running in the upcoming election. She stated that we can say all day long that partisanship is not involved. But, when you have a candidate that is a known Republican or known Democrat and the other members of the council who are Democrats or Republicans are supporting the candidate of their party, we all know that is not true.

Ms. Ringer stated to go forward; we need someone who knows the process. Any alderman does, but if they are running for office, campaigns take time and work and they are a distraction. They can be very partisan as we know. She asked the Council to pick someone who is involved in the process, has the integrity, was elected by the people or was chosen by our former Mayor, whose shoes, in her opinion, cannot be filled. Ms. Ringer stated we need someone who is going to step up to the plate, put partisanship aside, and do what is right for the people of Springfield for the next four months without politics. She stated that from the state level and this city level, we've had quite enough politics in the last four years. She asked the Council to put it aside and choose the right person.

The nomination of Jim Donelan failed 3/7. Ald. Simpson, Cahnman and Mahoney voted Yes. Ald. Edwards, Lesko, Cimarossa, Theilen, Dove, Griffin and Mayor Pro Tem Kunz voted No.

The nomination of Mark Mahoney failed 5/5. Ald. Simpson, Cahnman, Mahoney, Cimarossa, and Mayor Pro Tem Kunz voted Yes. Ald. Edwards, Lesko, Theilen, Dove and Griffin voted No.

The nomination of Frank Edwards passed 6/4. Ald. Edwards, Lesko, Theilen, Dove, Griffin and Mayor Pro Tem Kunz voted Yes. Ald. Simpson, Cahnman, Mahoney and Cimarossa voted No.

Frank Edwards was sworn in as acting Mayor.

Ald. Theilen moved to adjourn the meeting. Ald. Simpson seconded. The motion carried 10/0 via voice vote. The time was approximately 5:37 p.m.

Cecilia K. Tumulty

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City Clerk