

**Minutes of Springfield City
Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 20, 2011
City Council Chambers**

PRE-COUNCIL SESSION

City Clerk Cecilia Tumulty called the Pre Council Session of the Springfield City Council to Order at 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 20, 2011, in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Center West.

Clerk Tumulty read the following **Ordinances and/or Resolutions on Emergency Passage** into the record of this Council meeting.

2011-361 An Ordinance Authorizing Acceptance And Execution Of Grant No. 12-751029 From The Illinois Department Of Commerce And Economic Opportunity, Under The Local Tourism And Convention Bureau Grant Program, In The Amount Of \$308,085.00 With Matching Funds Required In The Amount Of \$308,085.00, Beginning July 1, 2011, Through June 30, 2012, **For Emergency Passage (Requested by Mayor J. Michael Houston)**

Clerk Tumulty read the following **Ordinances and/or Resolutions on First Reading** and assigned to the Committee of the Whole into the record of this Council meeting.

2011-362 An Ordinance Authorizing Execution Of An Intergovernmental Agreement With The Board Of Education Of Springfield School District No. 186 Regarding School Safety Officers For The 2011-2012 And 2012-2013 School Years **(Requested by Mayor J. Michael Houston)**

2011-363 An Ordinance Authorizing Acceptance And Execution Of A Grant From The Illinois Department Of Transportation In The Amount Of \$184,883.47 For The Local Alcohol Program And Authorizing A Supplemental Appropriation In The Amount Of \$75,419.50 For FY12 For The Springfield Police Department **(Requested by Mayor J. Michael Houston)**

2011-364 An Ordinance Authorizing Payment In The Amount Of \$26,268.23 To Coe Equipment, Inc. For Full And Final Settlement Of Risk Management Claim Number A12011050279 **(Requested by Mayor J. Michael Houston)**

2011-365 An Ordinance Authorizing A Change In Scope Of Bid Contract No. UE11-02-107-Substation Transformer Recondition And Repair In The Amount Of \$93,910.00 With Solomon Corporation For A Total Amount Of \$179,920.00 Payable To Said Vendor For The Water Division Water Purification Department **(Requested by Mayor J. Michael Houston)**

2011-366 An Ordinance Authorizing Additional Funding In An Amount Not To Exceed \$75,000.00 With Explosive Professionals Midwest, Inc. For Explosive Blasting Services For The Dallman Power Plant Unit Nos. 31, 32, 33 And 4 Boilers Under An Existing Proposal For A Total Amount Of \$179,000.00 Payable To Said Vendor For The Electric Division Generation Department **(Requested by Mayor J. Michael Houston)**

2011-367 An Ordinance Accepting The Bid And Authorizing The Execution Of Contract UE12-08-54 – Dallman Power Plant Unit No. 31 Selective Catalytic Reduction (Scr) System Change Out With

Enerfab, Inc. In The Amount Of \$121,882.00 For The Electric Division (**Requested by Mayor J. Michael Houston**)

2011-368 An Ordinance Approving And Authorizing The Execution Of A Telecommunications Fiber Capacity License Agreement Combining And Renewing Existing Telecommunications Fiber Capacity License Agreements Between The City Of Springfield And Memorial Health System For The Electric Division (**Requested by Mayor J. Michael Houston**)

2011-369 An Ordinance Authorizing Payment Of \$218,500.00 To The State Of Illinois, Department Of Transportation, For Pavement Patching On Jefferson Street From Emporia Avenue To Veterans Parkway And On Madison Street From Lewis Street To 9th Street (MFT Section No. 10-State-02-RS) For The Office Of Public Works (**Requested by Mayor J. Michael Houston**)

2011-370 A Resolution Authorizing Execution Of A Letter Of Intent With The State Of Illinois For The Widening Of Dirksen Parkway From Linden Lane To Ridge Avenue (MFT Section #11-State-01-WR), For The Office Of Public Works (**Requested by Mayor J. Michael Houston**)

2011-371 A Resolution Authorizing Execution Of A Letter Of Intent With The State Of Illinois For The Widening Of Wabash Avenue From Moffet Street In Curran To Koke Mill Road (MFT Section # 11-State-02-WR), For The Office Of Public Works (**Requested by Mayor J. Michael Houston**)

2011-372 A Supplemental Resolution Notifying The State Of Illinois That Additional Motor Fuel Tax Funds In The Amount Of \$2,655.90 Was Used To Purchase Battery Back-Ups And Backplate Reflective Tape From The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library And Museum Grant (Jn605-006), Pursuant To The Illinois Highway Code, MFT Section No. 10-00448-06-Tl, For The Office Of Public Works (**Requested by Mayor J. Michael Houston**)

2011-373 An Ordinance Authorizing A Supplemental Appropriation In The Amount Of \$80,000.00 From Unappropriated Fund Balance For The Office Of Public Works (**Requested by Mayor J. Michael Houston**)

2011-374 An Ordinance Authorizing The Acceptance Of Two Grants And The Execution Of The Respective Grant Agreements With The U.S. Department Of Housing And Urban Development In Connection With The City's Fiscal Year 2011 Consolidated Action Plan To Accept \$1,163,012.00 In Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Award And \$541,171.00 In Home Investment Partnership Formula Funds For A Total Of \$1,704,183.00 For The Office Of Planning And Economic Development (**Requested by Mayor J. Michael Houston**)

2011-375 An Ordinance Authorizing Execution Of An Amendment To Subrecipient Agreement For Grant Number 08-SR-0012 With Helping Hands Of Springfield, Inc. To Reduce The Grant Amount By \$34,000.00 For A Total Grant Amount Not To Exceed \$224,095.50 To Carry Out Eligible Activities In Conjunction With The Homelessness Prevention And Rapid Re-Housing Program Using Community Development Block Grant Funds For The Office Of Planning And Economic Development (**Requested by Mayor J. Michael Houston**)

2011-376 An Ordinance Authorizing Execution Of An Amendment To A Subrecipient Agreement For Grant Number 08-SR-0013 With M.E.R.C.Y. Communities, Inc. To Increase The Grant Amount By \$34,000.00 For A Total Grant Amount Not To Exceed \$292,095.20 To Carry Out Eligible Activities In

Conjunction With The Homelessness Prevention And Rapid Re-Housing Program Using Community Development Block Grant Funds For The Office Of Planning And Economic Development (**Requested by Mayor J. Michael Houston**)

2011-377 An Ordinance To Increase The Number Of Class “E” Liquor Licenses By One For Jered Dennis D/B/A Porter & Hazel’s Delicatessen, 106 W. Jefferson Street (**Requested by Mayor J. Michael Houston**)

The Pre Council Session Concluded at 5:10 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Houston 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: Ald. Edwards ☒, Simpson ☒, Turner ☒, Lesko ☒, Cahnman ☒, Jobe ☒, McMenamin ☒, Theilen ☒, Dove ☒, Griffin ☒ and Mayor Houston ☒.

ABSENT: none

ZONING PETITIONS

The first item on the agenda was Docket Number 2011-015 for the property located at 2012 Republic.

PETITIONER(S): Chronister Oil Company

PRESENT ZONING CLASSIFICATION: I-1, Light Industrial District

REQUESTED ZONING RELIEF: Variance of Section 155.112, Surfacing and Section 155.114(b), Regulations for the location of off-street parking facilities

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approval

**PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:
Denial of the petition as submitted**

A motion was made by Alderman Lesko to continue Docket Number 2011-015 until the October 18, 2011 City Council Meeting. His motion was seconded by Alderman Cahnman.

The motion for a continuance on Docket Number 2011-015 passed with a vote of 10-0. Ald. Edwards ☒, Simpson ☒, Turner ☒, Lesko ☒, Cahnman ☒, Jobe ☒, McMenamin ☒, Theilen ☒, Dove ☒, Griffin ☒ all voted yes.

The next item on the zoning agenda was Docket Number 2011-034 for the property located at 1400 Illini Road.

PETITIONER(S): Mark Owen Roberts, Jr. & Sula Mae Roberts

PRESENT ZONING CLASSIFICATION: R-1, Single-family Residence District

REQUESTED ZONING RELIEF: Variance of Section 155.061, Basic yard requirements to allow division of said property into two separate lots, and a rear yard setback of 13.24 feet and side yard setback of 13.7 feet on the north

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approval

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

A motion was made by Alderman McMenamain moved to approve the petition as submitted. His motion was seconded by Alderman Lesko.

The motion to approve the petition for Docket Number 2011-034 as submitted passed with a vote of 10-0. Ald. Edwards , Simpson , Turner , Lesko , Cahnman , Jobe , McMenamain , Theilen , Dove , Griffin all voted yes.

The next item on the zoning agenda was docket number 2011-036 for the property located at 3250 Clear Lake Avenue.

PETITIONER(S): Sears, Roebuck and Company

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

REQUESTED ZONING RELIEF: Variance of Section 155.033, Highway Business Service District, to allow major automobile repair in the B-1, Highway Business Service District

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approval

**PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:
Approval of the petition as submitted for a Use Variance of Section 155.033, Highway Business Service District, to allow major automobile repair**

Alderman Turner made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission on Docket Number 2011-036. Her motion was seconded by Alderman Griffin.

The motion to accept the recommendation made by the planning and zoning commission on Docket 2011-036 was passed with a vote of 10-0. Ald. Edwards , Simpson , Turner , Lesko , Cahnman , Jobe , McMenamain , Theilen , Dove , Griffin all voted yes.

The next item on the zoning agenda was Docket Number 2011-037 for the property located at 1701 West Lawrence.

PETITIONER(S): Kerry Snodgrass

PRESENT ZONING CLASSIFICATION: R-2, Single-family and Duplex Residence District

REQUESTED ZONING RELIEF: Variance of Section 155.061, Basic yard requirements, and Section 155.068, Garage or accessory buildings or structures

AMENDED STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approval after testimony

**PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:
Approval of the petition as amended, to approve the Variance of Section 155.061, Basic yard requirements to allow the structure to be within 8 feet of the East property line instead of the 12 ½ feet per code**

A motion was made by Alderman Theilen to accept the recommendation made by the planning and zoning commission to Docket Number 2011-037. His motion was seconded by Alderman Griffin.

The motion to accept the recommendation made by the planning and zoning commission on Docket 2011-037 was passed with a vote of 10-0. Ald. Edwards , Simpson , Turner , Lesko , Cahnman , Jobe , McMenamin , Theilen , Dove , Griffin all voted yes.

The next item on the zoning agenda was docket number 2011-038 for the property located at 1230 South Grand Avenue East.

PETITIONER(S): Millco Acquisition Company, LLC

PRESENT ZONING CLASSIFICATION: S-1, Neighborhood Commercial and Office District and R-2, Single-family and Duplex Residence District for the south sixty (60) feet

REQUESTED ZONING RELIEF: Reclassify to S-1, Neighborhood Commercial and Office District, and a Variance of Section 155.098, Retail or service establishments, Section 155.114, Regulations for the location of off street parking facilities, Section 155.062, Permitted obstructions in required yards, Section 155.063, Required yards for lots adjoining residential districts, to build a Dollar General store; reduce parking from 37 spaces to 32 spaces; reduce the front yard from fifteen feet to six feet six inches; to allow a dumpster and wood privacy enclosure in the required side yard; and reduce the rear yard from twenty five feet to fifteen feet

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approval

**PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:
Approval of the petition as submitted, contingent upon the site plan being submitted to and approved by the City and traffic issues approved by the City Engineer**

Alderman Simpson made a motion to concur with the Springfield Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendations, except that the variance to park in the required fifteen-foot front yard is denied and that the other variances are granted with the condition that the entire fifteen-foot front yard be a green space, consisting of turf grass and the plantings required by Section 155.480 of the Zoning Ordinance. Her motion was seconded by Alderman Edwards.

The motion to Docket 2011-038 was approved by a vote of 10-0. Ald. Edwards , Simpson , Turner , Lesko , Cahnman , Jobe , McMenamain , Theilen , Dove , Griffin all voted yes.

The next item on the zoning agenda was docket number 2011-039 for the property located at 2449 Wabash Avenue.

PETITIONER(S): Quattro Development, LLC

PRESENT ZONING CLASSIFICATION: S-2, Community Shopping and Office District

REQUESTED ZONING RELIEF: Variance of Section 155.114(b), Regulations for the location of off street parking facilities, to allow parking in the required front yard of a multi-tenant strip retail building

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approval

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

Alderman McMenamain made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission. His motion was seconded by Alderman Griffin.

The motion to accept the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission to Docket Number 2011-039 passed with a vote of 10-0. Ald. Edwards , Simpson , Turner , Lesko , Cahnman , Jobe , McMenamain , Theilen , Dove , Griffin all voted yes.

The final item on the zoning agenda was docket number 2011-040 for the property located at 722 West Vine.

PETITIONER(S): Jill E. Gordon

PRESENT ZONING CLASSIFICATION: R-2, Single-family and Duplex Residence District

REQUESTED ZONING RELIEF: Variance of Section 155.068, Garages or accessory buildings or structures, to allow construction of a one car garage along the east property line instead of the three feet per code

AMENDED STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Amended after testimony

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

Alderman Jobe made a motion to accept the recommendation made by the Planning and Zoning Commission recommendation. His motion was seconded by Alderman Edwards.

The motion to accept the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission to Docket Number 2011-040 passed with a vote of 10-0. Ald. Edwards , Simpson , Turner , Lesko , Cahnman , Jobe , McMenamin , Theilen , Dove , Griffin all voted yes.

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Houston recognized Treasurer Langfelder for the presentation of the financial report. Treasurer Langfelder reported that the annual treasurer's report was filed with the City Clerk's office as well as with Sangamon County. The report is available on the City of Springfield's website.

He went on to report that the beginning balance for the month of August for the corporate fund was - \$807,551.00. Receipts for the month of August totaled \$8,934,933.00. Disbursements for the month of August were \$6,849,716.00. The ending cash balance for the month of August was \$1,277,666.00

A motion was made by Alderman Simpson to approve the financial report. Her motion was seconded by Alderman Griffin. The motion passed with a voice vote of 10-0.

Alderman Simpson made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the September 6, 2011 City Council Meeting and approve the minutes. Her motion was seconded by Alderman Griffin. The motion passed with a voice vote of 10-0.

Alderman Simpson made a motion to incorporate the pre-council first reading of ordinances into the record of the Council meeting. Her motion was seconded by Alderman Griffin. The motion passed with a voice vote of 10-0.

Alderman Simpson made a motion to incorporate the pre-council reading of the consent agenda into the record of the council meeting. Her motion was seconded by Alderman Griffin. The motion passed with a voice vote of 10-0.

Alderman Simpson made a motion to remove Agenda Item 2011-344 from the consent agenda and place it back into committee. Her motion was seconded by Alderman Griffin.

Alderman McMenamin asked for clarification on the subject of the ordinance. Mayor Houston responded that it is a workers compensation settlement and that there are issues that need to be resolved before it can be approved.

The motion to place Agenda Item 2011-344 back in committee passed with a voice vote of 10-0.

Alderman Simpson made a motion to place the revised consent agenda on final passage. Her motion was seconded by Alderman Griffin.

The consent agenda was passed with a vote of 10-0. Ald. Edwards ☒, Simpson ☒, Turner ☒, Lesko ☒, Cahnman ☒, Jobe ☒, McMenemy ☒, Theilen ☒, Dove ☒, Griffin ☒ all voted yes.

The next item on the agenda was Agenda Item 2011-360, An Ordinance Authorizing Execution Of An Agreement With, And Payment Of \$50,000.00 To, Maximus Consulting Services, Inc. To Perform A Review Of A Fiscally-Sustainable Staffing Level For The City, For The Office Of Budget And Management. Alderman Cahnman made a motion to place Agenda Item 2011-360 on final passage. His motion was seconded by Simpson.

Treasurer Langfelder expressed his objection to the ordinance. He stated that he believed that the City had the expertise to conduct the audit in house. He concurred with earlier statements made by Alderman Simpson that an attempt should be made to do the audit in house before expending the funds and if that audit proves to be unhelpful, then expends the funds for the audit. He also stated that he believed that the audit should encompass all city departments, not to pick and choose which ones to audit.

Alderman Jobe asked what the scope of the audit will be as he has been receiving conflicting reports. Office of Budget and Management Director Bill McCarty responded that the only exclusions will be the sworn police officers, fire fighters, the Clerk's office and the Treasurer's office.

Alderman Edwards again asked what the scope of the audit will be. He also asked about the timing of the audit and the potential that it could wind up as budget talks are getting started. He also asked what the goals of the audit will be and what the action plan for the audit is. He expressed that the Mayor should set the goal for the audit and informs the Council as to what the plan of action will be. He agreed with the Treasurer's comments that the audit should be conducted by the new directors in the departments with the guidance of the Mayor before contracting with an outside firm.

Alderman Cahnman pointed out that it is an efficiency study with an expert firm. He pointed out that it would be unproductive to have a pre-set goal in place before the professionals take a look at the processes and efficiencies in City Government. He pointed out that the firm was able to save Sangamon County money after they did an efficiency study. He pointed out that the Council has approved efficiency studies in the past. He also stated that he believed that the timing was right and he encouraged all of his colleagues to vote for the ordinance.

Alderman Edwards pointed out that his previous vote was for a study of the entire city and not to pick and choose who is audit and who is not.

Alderman Cahnman pointed out the minimum manning requirements that are in place for the fire department precludes them from being included. He had previously asked Director McCarty how much additional money it would cost to add the sworn police officers into the study. Director McCarty responded that the additional cost would be \$20,000. Director McCarty went on to explain that there are resources that are already being spent on paying for overtime for the fire department and that was the reason that they were not included in the study. He went on to point out that the Mayor's budget stabilization plan is dependent on reducing staff. He also pointed out that with the next budget year coming up, Maximus is able to provide what the Mayor's office needs in a timely manner.

Alderman Cahnman asked if the additional cost could be included at a later time to have the sworn police and fire officers included in the audit. Director McCarty pointed out that what the police

department does is already clear and there is no need for an efficiency study for them. He went on to state that the staffing levels come down to decision about how many police officers are needed out on the streets.

Alderman Edwards pointed out that the study is on efficiency, not cuts. Efficiencies do not necessarily mean cuts. He argued that the consulting firm would be doing the job for the other directors while letting the police department and fire department examine their own efficiencies. He expressed confidence in the other directors and their ability to do the same thing. Mayor Houston stated that he does have confidence that the Directors can and are doing their jobs. He believes that the Directors can work with the consultants to do this study in a timely manner.

Alderman Edwards expressed his concern that the Mayor is not following through with things that he said that he was going to do. He added that he has confidence in the Directors to do this study themselves.

Alderman Griffin pointed out that the Directors can work with the auditors to complete the study. He also pointed out that previous studies resulted in no action being taken on their recommendations. He added that whatever the results of the study, the Council need to be prepared to take action on those recommendations. He also encouraged any Director to come forward at any time to suggest cuts in their departments.

Alderman Turner stated that she agrees with the proposal of an outside firm to do the study, but she also agrees with Alderman Edwards that the entire City needs to be included in the audit. She pointed out that she has worked with Maximus on several occasions and they will not only look at staffing levels, but processes as well.

Alderman Cahnman pointed out that the voters of Sangamon County had overwhelmingly approved the creation of a county-wide efficiency commission.

Alderman Simpson stated that it is her belief that the voters would want the Directors to conduct the audit internally. She suggested tasking the Directors to look at their own departments and to find efficiencies before spending \$50,000 to bring in an outside entity to do the same thing.

Alderman Theilen asked for clarification from Corporation Counsel on why the contract was even coming before the Council. Corporation Counsel Mark Cullen responded that the contract is a professional services contract which requires Council approval. Alderman Theilen stated that he also believes that the study should be city-wide. The study is about efficiency, not about jobs. He had a similar experience with the Sangamon County Health Board and Maximus. In some cases the fees that were being charged were not matching up with the services that were being provided. He pointed out that the results could say that there needs to be an increase in fees charged or even an alteration in the shift schedule for police officers. He suggested taking the contract back to Maximus to get price on doing the entire city.

Alderman McMenamain expressed some confusion about the intent of the study, whether it is a staffing or an efficiency study. He expressed some concern about the launch of the ordinance and the information that has been given. He expressed concern that the audit will not look at the largest portions of the city budget, which would leave things that have already been cut. He also expressed concern that the auditors do not have expertise in engineering and power generating evaluation and therefore could

not make a real efficiency study in City Water Light and Power. He stated that he had recently been given a tour of the power plants by CWLP Director Hobbie and Fire Chief Fustin. Director Hobbie told him that he is in favor of the study and looks forward to using the data that will be gathered to improve their operations. He stated that he will support the ordinance, although he has reservations about it. He encouraged the Directors to bring forth solutions as a result of the study.

Alderman Jobe asked if the ordinance could be tabled in order to allow time for more information to be given to the Alderman. Mayor Houston responded that the ordinance is time sensitive, if it is going to be used for the budget.

Director McCarty stated that if the decision is made to look at police and fire sworn officers, there are groups that have expertise in doing those audits only. He recommended going with such a group if the decision is made to move forward with that. He also urged the Aldermen to approve the ordinance and move forward with the Maximus audit.

Alderman Theilen asked for clarification on what the firm will be looking at, efficiencies or staffing levels. Mayor Houston responded that the study will look at both issues.

Agenda Item 2011-360 passed with a vote of 6-4. Ald. Turner☒, Lesko☒, Cahnman☒, McMenamini☒, Theilen☒, and Griffin☒ voted yes. Ald. Edwards☒, Simpson☒, Jobe☒ and Dove☒ voted no.

The next item on the agenda was Agenda Item 2011-361, An Ordinance Authorizing Acceptance and Execution of Grant No. 12-751029 From the Illinois Department of Commerce And Economic Opportunity, Under the Local Tourism and Convention Bureau Grant Program, In The Amount Of \$308,085.00 With Matching Funds Required in the Amount Of \$308,085.00, Beginning July 1, 2011, Through June 30, 2012. Alderman Simpson moved to place Agenda Item 2011-361 on emergency passage. Her motion was seconded by Alderman Griffin.

Mayor Houston explained that the ordinance was to receive the City's annual grant from the state department of tourism. The amount is matched with existing salaries and rent.

Alderman Theilen explained that he will be voting present because he is an employee of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

Agenda Item 2011-361 passed with a vote of 9-1-1. Ald. Edwards☒, Simpson☒, Turner☒, Lesko☒, Cahnman☒, Jobe☒, Dove☒, Griffin☒ and Mayor Houston☒ all voted yes. Ald. McMenamini☒ voted no and Ald. Theilen☒ voted present.

Alderman Simpson moved to suspend the rules and place on first reading Agenda Item 2011-378, 2011-379 and 2011-380. Her motion was seconded by Alderman Griffin. The motion passed with a voice vote of 10-0.

Mayor Houston read the titles of the additional ordinance titles into the record.

2011-378 An Ordinance Authorizing Execution Of An Agreement With Azavar Audit Solutions, Incorporated To Perform A Separate Audit Of Each Utility Contract Executed By The City And Each Franchise Fee Or Tax Authorized By The City Within Its Corporate Boundaries, For The Office Of Budget And Management

Mayor Houston explained that the ordinance will authorize a firm to audit on a contingency basis various fees that the City is receiving. Any findings where they find additional dollars, they will take 33% of the additional revenue over a five year period. He added that the City of Rockford had recently done something similar and it had resulted in an additional \$1,000,000.00.

2011-379 An Ordinance Authorizing Execution Of A Redevelopment Agreement With The Salvation Army For Redevelopment Assistance Utilizing Central Area Tax Increment Finance Funds In An Amount Not To Exceed \$1,800,000.00 For The Property Located At 100 N. 9th Street, For The Office Of Planning And Economic Development

2011-380 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 101, Sections 101.16 And 101.999, Of The 1988 City Of Springfield Code Of Ordinances, As Amended, Pertaining To The Regulation Of Alteration, Construction And Demolition Of Buildings And Structures Identified On The List Of Properties Eligible For Landmarking

Alderman McMenamain thanked Mayor Houston, Executive Assistant Bill Logan, Corporation Counsel Mark Cullen, Public Works Director Mark Mahoney, John Sadowski and all of the building inspectors from Public Works and the Fire Department on their work at the MacArthur Park Apartments. He went on to say that the residents of Ward 7 are happy to see that the City is taking action.

Alderman Turner added to his comments and stated that she was happy to see the action being taken at MacArthur Park Apartments. She went on to remind the Mayor and his administration that there are problem properties throughout the entire city including in her ward (Ward 3) and in Alderman Simpson's ward (Ward 2). She asked that a movement be made quickly to have a uniform approach to properties throughout the City. She went on to state that this was one of the motivating factors for her to run for the City Council.

Alderman McMenamain stated that he has been attending Municipal Court on a regular basis and he does not see any preferential treatment being given to his ward. In observing Court, he has seen properties from all across the city be addressed.

Alderman Turner stated that she simply wanted to address her concerns, not to imply that there was any preferential treatment.

Mayor Houston assured Alderman Turner that his administration is taking a city wide approach. He stated that one of the results of the recent actions taken at the MacArthur Park Apartments is that landlords now know that the City will be enforcing building codes. He added his compliments to the code enforcement and building inspection teams in the City.

Alderman Simpson stated that she agrees with Alderman Turner. She expressed concern that there is not the manpower available to do what was done at MacArthur Park city wide. She went on to state that she has a property that she has been calling about, but it somehow gets lost in the system. She also attends administrative court to make sure that the hearing officer understands the issues on particular properties. She applauded Alderman McMenamain for recognizing the group, but they are just doing the job that the citizens of Springfield expect them to do.

Alderman Simpson also asked about a recent traffic tie up going into the power plant. Director Hobbie responded that it was due to a recent security department procedure to require people to sign in and out of the plant for accountability. The procedure was poorly executed, but it has been addressed and the traffic tie up will not happen again. The problem was the security officers were requiring individuals to sign in and out on paper. In the future, they will do it with cards and they are looking into other ways as well.

Alderman McMenamin addressed the comments that were made by Alderman Simpson. He stated of the 56 units that the city inspectors have looked at, 38 have been plaquarded, meaning that they are uninhabitable. He stated that while the employees were just doing their job, the focus has not previously existed to address the problem. He also mentioned that the council is unified in their desire to crack down on the problem properties.

Alderman Theilen stated that he had originally requested that the Council go into executive session in order to be updated on some recent legal matters. He requested that it be scheduled for the first meeting of October.

Calvin Christian, III, addressed the City Council in regards to the financial burden of the Chapter 76, Section 76.44 of the Code of Ordinances, or the towing of vehicles used in the commission of state and municipal offenses.

Alderman Turner added that she has had a constituent that had run in to the same issue with the towing of her vehicle. She advocated for a further look at the ordinance.

Alderman Cahnman asked Mr. Christian if the car is towed in every instance. Mr. Christian responded that he is familiar with three cases of this occurring and that the ultimate issue came down to credibility. He reminded the Council that police officers make mistakes as well as vehicle owners.

Alderman Simpson moved for adjournment. Her motion was seconded by Alderman Griffin. The motion carried with a voice vote of 10-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.

Cecilia K. Tumulty

Cecilia K. Tumulty
City Clerk