

City of Springfield
Springfield City Hall Commission Room
408 School Ave.
Springfield, FL 32401

Commission Meeting
November 6, 2023 @ 5:30 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hammond called this Commission Meeting to order on this the 6th day of November 2023 at Springfield City Hall. Notice was provided to the News Media via email and on the City's website.

A. Invocation: Commissioner Hamre gave the invocation.

B. Pledge of Allegiance: Commissioner Hamre led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Roll Call as follows:

- Commissioner Jack Kennington – Physically Present
- Commissioner Cindy Hamre – Physically Present
- Commissioner Jack Griffis – Physically Present
- Commissioner Phillip Dykes – Absent, Excused
- Mayor Ralph Hammond – Physically Present
- Staff physically present as follows: City Clerk Teresa Cox, Public Works Director Miles Grice, Fire Chief Brian Eddins, Police Chief Barry Roberts, Assistant Fire Chief Jerry Swearingen, Assistant Police Chief Russell Voyles, and City Attorney Kevin Obos.
- Visitors physically present: Jeanie Baldwin, Ron Mathis, Jeanie Hammond, Diana Kennington, Rhonda Crider, Moody Glenn, Tommy Kennington, John Gipson, Harold Ruth, Michelle Carter, Dietra Warren, Jessica Warren, William Bolduc, Tommy Pitts of Mott MacDonald, Wendy Kelly, and a few others.

II. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Mayor Hammond asked the City Commission if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. He reported he had four items to add to the regular agenda.

III. PRESENTATION AWARD

Mayor Hammond read the agenda item listed above and asked Springfield Police Officer Dietra Warren to come forward. Mayor Hammond then presented Police Officer Warren with a certificate of appreciation for 5 years of service. He thanked her for her dedication and service to the City of Springfield.

IV. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Ordinance 597 – Providing Restrictions on Camping – 2nd Final Reading

Mayor Hammond read the agenda item listed above and opened the Public Hearing.

City Attorney Obos read Ordinance 597 by title only. He explained this ordinance places restrictions on camping and noted this is the second and final reading.

Mayor Hammond asked if anyone from the public would like to speak on Ordinance 597. There were no comments. He then asked if the City Commission would like to speak on Ordinance 597. There were no comments.

Motion by Commissioner Kennington to approve Ordinance 597, Providing Restrictions on Camping. Motion seconded by Commissioner Hamre. Roll Call: All ayes; motion carried (4-0).

Mayor Hammond closed the Public Hearing.

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Limited to items on this agenda; remarks limited to 5 minutes.)

Mayor Hammond asked if anyone from the public had any comments limited to the items on the agenda. There were none.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. **Approval of October 2, 2023, Commission Meeting Minutes, and October 16, 2023, Workshop Minutes**
- B. **Development Order – D&M Warehouse – 3114 4th St. E.**
- C. **Lot Split – 2727 Usery Rd.**
- D. **Lot Split – 2544 Wheat Rd.**
- E. **Lot Split – 928 Bonnie Dr.**
- F. **Sign Permit – 3458 E. Hwy 98**

Mayor Hammond read the agenda item listed. He asked for comments or questions from the City Commission. There were none.

Motion by Commissioner Kennington to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Griffis. Roll Call: All ayes; motion carried (4-0).

VII. REGULAR AGENDA

1. Resolution 23-17 Adopting Deployment Plan

Mayor Hammond read the agenda item listed above.

City Attorney Obos read the first reading of Resolution 23-17 by title only. He noted this resolution adopts a deployment plan for emergency responders during disaster recovery.

Motion by Commissioner Griffis to approve Resolution 23-17, adopting the Deployment Plan. Motion seconded by Commissioner Kennington. Roll Call: All ayes; motion carried (4-0).

2. Resolution 23-19 FDOT Agreement for Gateway Signs

Mayor Hammond read the agenda item listed above.

City Attorney Obos read Resolution 23-19, FDOT Agreement for Gateway Signs by title only.

Motion by Commissioner Kennington to approve Resolution 23-19, FDOT Agreement for Gateway Signs. Motion seconded by Commissioner Hamre. Roll Call: All ayes; motion carried (4-0).

3. Ordinance 598 – Public Parking on Public Ways – 1st Reading

Mayor Hammond read the item listed above. He announced this is the first reading of Ordinance 598 and it does not require a vote.

City Attorney Obos read the first reading Ordinance 598, Public Parking on Public Ways by title only.

Mayor Hammond stated this ordinance will be carried forward to the next meeting for possible adoption.

4. RFP for Disaster Recovery Administrative Services

Mayor Hammond read the agenda item listed above. He reported three proposals had been received.

City Clerk Teresa Cox reported the Review Committee had reviewed, scored, and ranked the proposals as follows:

1. The Integrity Group	Total Score: 300
2. Integrated Solutions Consulting	Total Score: 232
3. Goodwyn Mills Cawood	Total Score: 172

She concluded the number one recommendation is to award the contract for Disaster Recovery Administrative Services to the Integrity Group.

Motion by Commissioner Kennington to accept the recommendation to award the Disaster Recovery Administrative Services to the Integrity Group. Motion seconded by Commissioner Griffis. Roll Call: All ayes; motion carried (4-0).

5. Interlocal Agreement with Panama City and Springfield to Provide Utility Services to 513 Everitt Ave.

Mayor Hammond read the agenda item listed. He explained the property located at 513 Everitt Ave. is in the City of Panama City and Panama City is unable to provide municipal sewer service to this address. He reported the City of Panama City is requesting the City of Springfield provide utility services to this address.

City Attorney Obos explained it would cost way to much for the City of Panama City to extend sewer lines to service this one address, and the City of Springfield already has water and sewer in this area.

Mayor Hammond noted if approved by the City Commission, the City of Springfield would supply both water and sewer to this one residence in Panama City.

Motion by Commissioner Kennington to approve the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Panama City and supply both water and sewer services to 513 Everitt Ave. Motion seconded by Commissioner Hamre. Roll Call: All ayes; motion carried (4-0).

6. Resolution 23-20 SRF Loan Pledge (Water System Lead Abatement)

Mayor Hammond read the agenda item listed.

City Attorney Obos read Resolution 23-20, SRF Loan Pledge (Water System Lead Abatement) by title only.

Tommy Pitts of Mott MacDonald explained new federal laws have been passed regarding lead piping used in water systems and there is new EPA funding available to abate any existing lead piping. He reported the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) has State Revolving Funds (SRF) available for small cities to abate lead piping in municipal water systems. Mr. Pitts noted small cities can get up to 90% forgiveness of these costs through this program. He encouraged the City Commission to consider applying for the program to evaluate the City's water system, inventory any lead pipelines, verify the existence of and replace any pipes that need to be replaced. Mr. Pitts recommended submitting the application for the funding and noted there may be lines in the Bay Harbor area that need to be replaced.

Motion by Commissioner Kennington to approve Resolution 23-20, SRF Loan Pledge (Water System Lead Abatement). Motion seconded by Commissioner Hamre. Roll Call: All ayes; motion carried (4-0).

7. Resolution 23-21 Nuisance Abatement Lien – 127 Central Ave.

Mayor Hammond read the agenda item listed above.

City Attorney Obos read Resolution 23-21, Nuisance Abatement Lien for 127 Central Ave. He explained this resolution places a lien in the amount of \$7,836.72 for the costs incurred by the City to clean the property.

Motion by Commissioner Griffis to approve Resolution 23-21, Nuisance Abatement Lien for 127 Central Ave. in the amount of \$7,836.72. Motion seconded by Commissioner Hamre. Roll Call: All ayes; motion carried (4-0).

8. Resolution 23-22 Final Budget Amendment for FY 22-23

Mayor Hammond read the agenda item listed above.

City Attorney Obos read Resolution 23-22, Final Budget Amendment for FY22-23 by title only. He reported throughout each fiscal year the budget has to be amended to reflect changes in revenues and expenditures. He reported this is the final amendment for the FY22-23 budget.

Motion by Commissioner Griffis to approve Resolution 23-22, Final Budget Amendment for FY22-23. Motion seconded by Commissioner Kennington. Roll Call: All ayes; motion carried (4-0).

9. Fire Department Surplus

Mayor Hammond read the agenda item listed above. He reported the Springfield Fire Department has requested to surplus 27 out-of-date SCBA Training Bottles.

Motion by Commissioner Kennington to approve the request from the Springfield Fire Department to surplus 27 out-of-date SCBA Training Bottles. Motion seconded by Commissioner Hamre. Roll Call: All ayes; motion carried (4-0).

10. Public Works Director Vehicle

Mayor Hammond read the agenda item listed above. He reported the Public Works Director's City truck was heavily damaged by Hurricane Michael and subsequently repaired in 2019. He noted the truck is beginning to show wear and tear and needs to be replaced. Mayor Hammond stated the City typically surpluses the vehicles to auction and accepts the best offer, but in this case, the Public Works Director has received a trade-in value offer of \$22,000.00 towards the purchase of a new truck from the dealer. He expressed that this is a significant savings on a budgeted purchase and requested the City Commission authorize the trade-in.

Motion by Commissioner Griffis to authorize the trade-in of the current Public Works Director's City truck towards the purchases of a new truck. Motion seconded by Commissioner Kennington. Roll Call: All ayes; motion carried (4-0).

Mayor Hammond announced this concluded the Regular Agenda.

VIII. MAYOR'S REPORT AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Mayor Hammond reported the City had received a call from FEMA Environmental Historical Preservation (EHP) to schedule a meeting to discuss the City's projects. He told the City Commission FEMA has placed a hold on every project the City has until they can complete a full Environmental Assessment (EA) of all properties the City will be building on or "disturbing the ground", including the property the City purchased North of the City Complex. He reported FEMA is also including properties the City does not own but proposes to develop like the Springfield Medical Center property. He expressed regret that the City cannot move forward with any project until FEMA can complete its own EA or risk losing the funding. Mayor Hammond told the City Commission FEMA has given an estimated completion date of July 17, 2024, for the EA. He reported FEMA has provided three alternatives as follows: 1) Do nothing and the City continues to operate out of its temporary facilities. 2) Build back all facilities in their original footprint and at their original location. 3) Approve the development and buildings for the new City Complex site. Mayor Hammond stated he was sad to report another delay. He stated he believed the City had only two choices: Move forward and work through EHP or borrow millions of dollars. Mayor Hammond reported the City had pulled the Request for Bids on the City Complex to avoid any further complications.

The City Commission discussed the pending EHP review and agreed to try and work through the process to avoid going into debt.

Mayor Hammond reported he had spoken to several county commissioners earlier in the day at a Tyndall event and was told FEMA had pulled funding from several projects because the county had started work before FEMA had completed an EHP review. He stated although he did not understand how the City could have gotten so far only to be stopped again, he was thankful the City had received the call before work had begun.

Mayor Hammond reported the Employee Thanksgiving luncheon will be held at noon on Wednesday, November 22, 2023. He invited the Commissioners to join the employees for lunch.

Mayor Hammond reported he will be going on vacation starting at noon on November 8, 2023, and will be out of town.

Mayor Hammond asked the City Commissioner if they had any comments.

Commissioner Griffis stated it was sad the City is being delayed again but it is important to keep moving forward.

Commissioner Kennington asked those who pray to pray for their City. There were no further comments.

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mayor Hammond asked if there were any comments from the public.

Michelle Carter of 3124 E. Baldwin Road expressed the water bill is too high in the City of Springfield. She stated she did not understand why. Then she reported cars are speeding down Baldwin Road and hit her Chihuahua. She requested more speed limit signs be posted, speed bumps be placed on the road, and officers to do more traffic control. Ms. Carter reported people are dumping garbage and old furniture across Baldwin Road on the vacant property and she believes there is a homeless camp set up in the wooded property along Baldwin Road.

Mayor Hammond explained the City buys all water and sewer from Bay County. He reported the City did not increase its rates above what the county had increased it. He expressed everything is going up and the City is doing everything it can to keep the costs down. Mayor Hammond told Ms. Carter Baldwin Road is a county maintained road. He referred her to the Bay County Sheriff's Office to report the speeding and to Bay County Code Enforcement to report the dumping and the homeless camps on Baldwin Road.

Wendy Kelly of Springfield Panthers asked the City Commission to provide the team with a free place to practice at the ballfield when the current contract is up January 1, 2024.

Mayor Hammond explained the City will have to look at that when the current contract is up. He told Ms. Kelly the City has been paying all of the utilities at the ballfield since Hurricane Michael and does plan to start charging the \$250.00 a month rental fee beginning in January. He then requested Ms. Kelly get with Public Works Director Miles Grice closer to the end of the year.

John Gipson of 101 Laramie Circle told the City Commission he was sorry to hear about the City's problems with FEMA. He stated his church would be open Wednesday night for prayer and suggested the City send a letter to the churches requesting prayer. Mr. Gipson told the City Commission to trust God and get the leaders of the City to pray.

Mr. Gipson then requested the City Commission get portable lights for Buddy McLemore Park so the kids can practice on the fields.

Mayor Hammond explained Buddy McLemore Park has no water, no lighting, and no bathrooms. He stated the park has been closed since Hurricane Michael and allowing the children to play on that field in its current condition would be a liability to the City. He told Mr. Gipson the City has put in a new legislative appropriation request for a little over \$7 million dollars to rebuild Buddy McLemore Park.

Mr. Gipson stated he understood the liability issues and expressed the residents were feeling financial strains with increases to homeowner's insurance, car insurance, and property taxes. He thanked the City Commission for doing whatever they can do to help the residents.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Griffis to adjourn. This meeting was adjourned by Mayor Hammond at 6:27 p.m.

Attest:



Teresa Cox, City Clerk



Ralph Hammond, Mayor