

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

Commission Meeting
February 05, 2024 @ 5:30 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hammond called this Commission Meeting to order on this the 5th day of February 2024 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, Police Lt. Randolph Grob, and City Attorney Kevin Obos.
- Visitors physically present: Jeanie Hammond, Diana Kennington, Rhonda Crider, Dietra Warren, Jessica Warren, Robert Piercy & wife, Harold Ruth, John Gipson, Carmen James, Ray Greer of Design West Group, Kenneth Crawford, Wesley Adams & wife, Patrick Burke, Magnus Ostrowski, Mr. & Mrs. Ostrowski, Zachary Howard, Robert Delude, WJHG News Channel 7, 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 then requested Item #B Resolution 24-02 – Nuisance Abatement Lien for 129 Central Ave. and 3504 E. 5th St. be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed under the Regular Agenda as Item #2. He then requested Red Speed, formerly listed as Item #2 under the Regular Agenda, be removed. Mayor Hammond explained Police Chief Roberts requested this item be removed so it could be discussed further at a later date. There were no further changes made.

III. PRESENTATION AWARDS

Mayor Hammond read the agenda item listed above. He reported Utility Cashier Jessica Warren has worked for the City for 5 years. He noted Mrs. Warren had worked hard in her department taking on additional duties to help the Utility Billing Supervisor whenever possible. Mayor Hammond presented Utility Cashier Jessica Warren with a certificate of appreciation for 5 years of service. He then thanked her for her dedication and service to the City of Springfield.

Next, Mayor Hammond reported Robert Piercy has worked for the City of Springfield for 5 years in the City's Street Department. He told everyone Mr. Piercy is a very hard worker and very conscientious. Mayor Hammond presented Mr. Piercy with a certificate of appreciation for 5 years of service. He then thanked him for his dedication and service to the City of Springfield.

Mayor Hammond reported Police Officer Raven Rowland has been with the Springfield Police Department for 5 years. He noted Officer Rowland was unable to be here to accept her certificate of appreciation. He asked Police Chief Roberts to thank her for her dedication and service to the City of Springfield.

Mayor Hammond reported Sargent Kenneth Crawford has worked for the City of Springfield for fifteen (15) years. He noted he worked hard and moved up the ranks within his department. Mayor Hammond presented Sgt. Crawford with a certificate of appreciation of service and thanked him for dedication to the City of Springfield.

Mayor Hammond reported Fire Lieutenant Bryan Cooper has been with the Springfield Fire Department for ten (10) years. He noted Lt. Cooper was unable to be here to accept his certification of appreciation. He asked Fire Chief Eddins to thank him for his dedication and service to the City of Springfield.

Mayor Hammond asked Fire Chief Eddins, and all the members of his department present to come forward. He announced Fire Chief Eddins has promotions to present.

Fire Chief Eddins called Fire Lieutenant Wesley Adams to come forward. He announced Lt. Adams' promotion to Fire Captain. Fire Captain Adams' wife came forward to honor his new rank by placing his new pin on his shirt. Everyone congratulated Captain Adams on his new promotion.

Fire Chief Eddins called Firefighter Patrick Burke to come forward. He announced Firefighter Burke's promotion to Fire Lieutenant. He then honored his new rank by placing his new pin on his shirt. Everyone congratulated Lt. Burke on his new promotion.

Fire Chief Eddins introduced New Hire Firefighter Magnus Ostrowski. He noted he comes from a long line of firefighters, and he was proud to have him in his department. Everyone welcomed Firefighter Ostrowski to the City of Springfield.

Mayor Hammond called City Clerk Teresa Cox to come forward. He told the City Commission City Clerk Cox had taken on an address verification project of her own about a year ago to verify the City was receiving its utility taxes and franchise fees correctly from Florida Power and Light. He noted she had reviewed every single address and every single parcel within the City working in the office and at home after-hours to complete her review. Mayor Hammond told the City Commission the City has received a little over \$349,000.00 in back pay in utility taxes and franchise fees thanks to the hard work and dedication of City Clerk Cox. He added the City will receive more than a \$100,000.00 every year going forward because of these address corrections.

Mayor Hammond explained the errors occurred because the cities share zip codes, and some of the other cities were receiving the utility taxes and franchise fees due to Springfield. Mayor Hammond thanked City Clerk Cox for all of her hard work on behalf of the City of Springfield.

IV. PUBLIC HEARING

There were no items under 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 January 16, 2024, Commission Workshop Minutes**
- B. Development Order – Circle K @ corner of 11th St. & Tyndall Pkwy**
- C. Lot Split – 136 Central Ave.**
- D. Lot Split – 231 Helen Ave.**
- E. Sign Permit – 2638 N. East Ave.**

Mayor Hammond read the items listed above on the Consent Agenda. He then 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. RFQ – Professional Planning Services

Mayor Hammond read the agenda item listed above. He reported only one submittal was received, Design West Group. He then announced Mr. Ray Greer of Design West Group was present and asked him to come forward and speak to the City Commission.

Mr. Ray Greer of Design West Group told the City Commission he had worked with the City of Springfield fourteen (14) years ago to update the City's Comprehensive Plan and he would like the opportunity to help the City update its plan now. He expressed the Comprehensive Plan should be updated every 7 years or so to incorporate changes in growth, economic impacts of growth, and prepare for the future of the City. Mr. Greer reported he had completed the Tyndall Joint Land Use Study sponsored through Bay County and funded by Tyndall. He explained during the study he had looked at and analyzed the cities around Tyndall including Springfield. He noted in his report he had recommended both the City of Callaway and the City of Springfield update their City's Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Greer noted this prompted Bay County to put funds in place to pay for these updates. He concluded he looked to helping the City with the needed updates if his firm is selected to provide general Professional Planning Services for Springfield.

Mayor Hammond told the City Commission the Evaluation Committee met at 1:00pm today, to review the submittal received based on the selection criteria set forth in the RFQ. He reported,

although there was only one submittal received, the Evaluation Committee recommended Design West Group be selected for general Professional Planning Services.

Motion by Commissioner Kennington to accept the recommendation of the Evaluation Committee to award the RFP 2024-01 Professional Planning Services to Design West Group. Motion seconded by Commissioner Hamre. Roll Call: All ayes; motion carried (4-0).

2. Resolution 24-02 – Nuisance Abatement Lien for 129 Central Ave. & 3504 E. 5th St.

Mayor Hammond read the agenda item listed above.

City Attorney Obos read Resolution 24-02, Nuisance Abatement Lien for 129 Central Ave. & 3504 E. 5th St. by title only. He noted the liens are for costs incurred to clean each of the properties.

Motion by Commissioner Kennington to approve Resolution 24-02 – Nuisance Abatement Lien for 129 Central Ave. & 3504 E. 5th St. Motion seconded by Commissioner Griffis. Roll Call: All ayes; motion carried (4-0).

Mayor Hammond announced this concluded the Regular Agenda.

VII. MAYOR'S REPORT AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Mayor Hammond reported the City had received a new timeline for the completion of the City's Environmental Assessment from FEMA. He noted FEMA has shortened the timeline because the City's tribal review is already complete, and no historical value has been found. Mayor Hammond concluded the shortened timeline is good news for the City because completion of the Environmental Assessment is keeping the City from moving forward with all of its projects.

Mayor Hammond reported the SRF Water and Sewer Rehabilitation project has begun on 14th St. to replace all of the water lines, sewer lines, and then pave 14th St. He asked everyone to be careful when traveling through the area.

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

Commissioner Hamre asked if they were going to discuss naming any of the City's recreational facilities after Commissioner Haddock.

Mayor Hammond noted the City Commission will discuss it further at the next workshop on February 19, 2024.

There were no further comments.

VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Robert Delude of 2625 Arden Ave. stated he was charged the base rate on his sewer bill twice and he wanted to know why. He implied the City had broken equipment and he shouldn't have to do the City job for them.

Mayor Hammond replied this had already been explained; he had not been charged two base rates but had been charged for the consumption for two months due to the meter not reporting. He noted the repairs had been made as soon as the meter showed no usage. He further noted the usage billed to Mr. Delude had been verified.

John Gipson of 101 Laramie Circle reported Florida Power & Light (FPL) had replaced the light pole at the corner of Kilbourne Ave. and 2nd St. in front of his church. He stated he was having trouble getting FPL to replace the streetlight on the pole. He requested assistance from the City to get the streetlight replaced for safety reasons.

Mayor Hammond directed Public Works Director Miles Grice to contact FPL to see what could be done.

Mr. Gipson thanked Mayor Hammond. He then told the City Commission the new church would be complete very soon and a dedication service will be held on April 20, 2024, at 12:00pm. He invited everyone to come.

There were no further comments.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Griffis to adjourn. This meeting was adjourned by Mayor Hammond at 6:01 p.m.

Attest: Teresa Cox
Teresa Cox, City Clerk

Ralph Hammond
Ralph Hammond, Mayor