

RESOLUTION NO. 13-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, FLORIDA, ACCEPTING THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY PERTAINING TO THE APPORTIONMENT OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS TO FUND FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES; AUTHORIZING INITIATION OF THE PROCESS NECESSARY FOR CITY COMMISSION CONSIDERATION OF THE IMPOSITION AND COLLECTION OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS TO FUND FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY FOR THIS RESOLUTION. This Resolution is adopted pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 166, Florida Statutes, the Municipal Charter of the City (the "Charter"), sections 166.021 and 166.041, Florida Statutes and other applicable provisions of law (collectively, the "Act").

SECTION 2. FINDINGS. It is hereby ascertained, determined and declared that:

(A) Through execution of a Professional Services Agreement and related work order on or about November 5, 2012, the City Commission of the City engaged special counsel and authorized the use of other professionals (collectively, the "Assessment Professionals") to prepare and review an Executive Summary describing an apportionment approach pertaining to special assessments for fire protection services, and such Executive Summary has been presented to, and received and considered by, the City Commission at a regularly scheduled meeting.

(B) Consideration of special assessments is necessitated by the threatened downgrading of the City's overall fire rating by Insurance Services, Inc. ("ISO"). The consequence of an ISO downgrade likely will lead to significant property insurance premium increases for property owners within the City. ISO standards suggest deployment of four responders to every fire-related call as well as certain training criteria that the City cannot meet given current funding resources.

(C) By correspondence dated October 4, 2012, ISO informed the City that the fire department's staffing levels and training are inadequate and the fire department's public protection classification rating will be downgraded from 6 to 10 unless the City undertakes certain curative actions (including additional personnel hires and training). The threat of retrogression in ISO rating and the resulting increase in insurance premiums for many property owners in the City requires the City Commission to immediately seek a means to fund the corresponding demands on its fire budget.

(D) Accordingly, the City Commission finds it necessary and prudent to initiate the process for consideration of the imposition and collection of special assessments, allocated substantially in accordance with the method set forth in the Executive Summary, in order to provide assessment revenue for the City's fire department budget commencing with Fiscal Year 2012-13.

SECTION 3. AUTHORITY. The Mayor, City Attorney, Fire Chief and other necessary City officials and employees along with the Assessment Professionals are authorized to undertake the actions contemplated by Work Order 2012-1 to initiate the public hearing process necessary for City Commission consideration of a special assessment to fund a portion of the fire protection services related budget in Fiscal Year 2012-13. The Mayor and City staff are hereby authorized to assist in such undertaking and to provide such information and assistance as may be necessary in order for the City Commission to promptly consider and determine to fund at a later date a net amount of approximately \$437,000.00, through the imposition of such assessments generally apportioned in the manner set forth in the Executive Summary at a rate of \$88.31 per tax parcel (Tier 2) with the remaining amount funded by a rate based upon a relative improvement value (Tier 1).

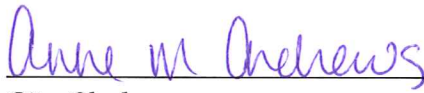
SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED THIS 4th day of February, 2013.

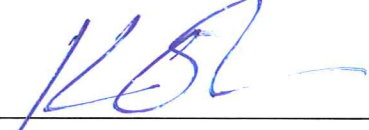
CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, FLORIDA

By: 

ATTEST:


City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO
CORRECTNESS AND FORM:

By: 
Kevin Obos, City Attorney